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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Shoe Attack

Iraqis and other Arabs erupted in glee Monday at the shoe attack on George W. Bush.

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### Promo Tour

A Nazi-filled Christmas is not an easy sell. That's just one of the challenges Tom Cruise faces.

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## US: Dismiss federalization lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Citing four main arguments, the U.S. government asked a federal court yesterday to dismiss the CNMI's lawsuit against federalization, saying that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lacks standing to bring the court action on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Six lawyers from the U.S. Department of Justice filed the motion to dismiss before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Besides Fitial's alleged lack of standing, the Justice lawyers cited three other reasons why the federal court should junk the case:

■ the CNMI lacks standing to bring the lawsuit because the inju-

ries alleged are not "concrete and particularized," but are instead "speculative and hypothetical";

■ the court action is not ripe for adjudication; and

■ the lawsuit "does not state a claim for which relief may be granted."

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from press secretary

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## CNMI quarter to be released end of 2009

By **KRISTI EATON**  
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REPORTER

The United States Mint announced yesterday that the CN-

MI's specially designed quarter would be placed into circulation around November 2009.

As part of the U.S. Mint's state quarter program, the CN-

MI's quarter will be the last one released. The six quarters released next year depict the District of Columbia and the

**See CNMI on Page 4**

## Nov. arrivals down across three islands

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Visitor numbers across the three islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—decreased last month, according to the latest figures from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Arrivals to Saipan went down slightly, with 50 less tourists visiting the Commonwealth's capital in November 2008—down 30,967 from 31,017 in the same period in 2008, which translates to a .0016 percent decrease.

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## Bordallo alias Mrs. Claus visits Walter Reed

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, spread Christmas cheer to the families of wounded servicemen by joining Santa Claus in presenting gifts to their children as "Mrs. Claus" at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Hundreds of servicemen and women and their families gathered at the historic Old Red Cross Building on the grounds at Walter Reed to share a home-cooked meal and to exchange holiday greetings.

The holiday party was sponsored by the non-profit organization Operation Homefront and the U.S. Army's Warrior Transition Brigade.

The holiday party also fea-

**See BORDALLO on Page 4**



### SEASON'S GREETINGS

Actor Adam Sandler wishes season's greetings to Santa and Guam Delegate Madeline Z. Bordallo in her role as Mrs. Claus at the annual Walter Reed Army Medical Center Holiday Party, held Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## Local

# 'Care packages have made a huge difference'

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Appreciation from overseas soldiers is trickling in as they receive care packages donated and prepared by a local organization.

For the last three months, CNMI Operation Homefront Support has been gathering and packaging items to mail to men and women serving overseas. More than 250 gift boxes were mailed out a few weeks ago and they now are arriving at their destinations. Five soldiers—Philip Aldan, Jeffrey Sablan, Clement Kaipat, Norman Deleon Guerrero and Patrick Ogo—currently serving in Kuwait recently received the gift boxes containing items such as food, newspapers and magazines, and letters from school children.

"We would also like to send out our gratitude to all the students who wrote letters of support and encouragement," they wrote in an e-mail. "The care packages and letters have made a huge difference during our deployment. We understand that although it may be difficult for us here in theater, it is also hard for those we have left behind back home and we would like to thank the CNMI community for showing us you care."

Capt. Clarence P. Tenorio, stationed in Hawaii, also recently received his package in the mail. He also was grateful for the gift box, especially the cards and notes from the students.

The notes of appreciation are a thrill to one of the organizers of Operation Homefront Support.

"To see the twinkle in their eyes, it gives me goose bumps," said Geri Willis, director of the Troops-to-Teachers program.

Willis and Troops-to-Teachers staff members Fred Camacho and Jill Arenovski said they would like to thank the following people for their help and support:

- American Red Cross: John Hirsh & Kennedy Benjamin for logistics, organization, meeting center, mailing boxes and postage label printing. Also for purchasing additional cookies to ensure all soldiers get them!
- MCV: Mark Birmingham, for banners/stickers/TV advertisements;

Gov. Benigno Fitial, first lady Josie Fitial, Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez, and Cabinet members, for Spam/chicharon/CD mangoes;

- Jon Bargfrede (Bank of Saipan), postage for 250-plus boxes;
- Schoolchildren from Marianas High School, Oleai Elementary, William S Reyes Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, Rota Jr. High

and Rota Elementary, Kagman Elementary, Tinian, Koblerville Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary, Saipan International School, who wrote letters and made drawings, as well as donated canned goods;

- Knitting Club, for hand knit beanie caps made by Sylvia Haywood, Janet Jensen, Jill Arenovski, Jane Kong, Ling Bei, Eve Deleon Guerrero, Melanie Daly, and Cynthia Guevarra. Yarn donations from Jim Faiella, Melanie Daly, and others.

- *Saipan Tribune* newspapers
- *Beach Road Magazines*

- *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety*, articles of support and media coverage

- PTI, for face-to-face communication between troopers and families;

- Kathryn Barry and Ed Manglona, volunteers for packing boxes;

- Mr. Horiguchi, six cases of coconut chips;

- Sen. Pete Reyes, for tuna and other canned goods;

- Rep. David Apatang, for

SPAM/corned beef;

- Angelo Villagomez, indigenous T-shirts;

- Drs. Ken & Crystal Piereson (Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic), toothbrushes, magazines;

- Lori Serna, dental floss;

- VFW, phone cards;

- Army Reserve Center, storage, tables and chairs;

- Armed Forces Committee, Chamber of Commerce—Judge David Wiseman, Doug Brennan;

- Joeten affiliates/Price Costco/Twins Market—in-store advertisements and donations;

- Tinian Fleming's Store—in-store advertisement and donations;

- Legislative Bureau;

- Herman's Bakery;

- Maria Quitaqua Babauta, for doni, soba, tuna;

- Hafa Adai Bakery, for local baked goodies;

- Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez, for pens; and

- Ruth Coleman, executive officer, Military & Veteran Affairs.



Philip Aldan, Jeffrey Sablan, Clement Kaipat, Norman Deleon Guerrero and Patrick Ogo show off the care packages they recently received from Operation Homefront Support.

## CUC, EPA talk stipulated orders, permits

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña met with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency last week to discuss the stipulated orders recently filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI to compel the utility company to adhere to federal regulations governing water, sewer, power and fuel.

The lack of environmental permits for the Aggreko generators also was discussed, Muña said.

He said the meeting went well, with EPA sharing their expectations for the implementation of the stipulated orders.

"They communicated their expectation. We recognize that," he said. "We will ensure what we need to do to comply will be done."

In November, the U.S. Department of Justice and the EPA filed a civil suit against CUC, claiming the utility agency has committed violations against the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The suit was accompanied by two stipulated orders, which means that the CNMI government agreed to the terms and conditions being required of it by the EPA. The stipulated orders need to be signed by the court.

Gov. Benigno Fitial and Muña signed off on the stipulated orders in July. The stipulations require CUC to reorganize its managerial and operational staff; hire engineers and other environmental professionals;

submit financial plans; and undertake a number of interim construction projects.

"This platform, as far as EPA [is concerned], I think they're going to be happy with the platform they're going to see right now," Muña said after Friday's Public Utilities Commission hearing.

The EPA officials also discussed with Muña the lack of permits for the Aggreko generators, which Muña said is still a work in progress.

"They do recognize the emergency need for these engines," Muña said. "I think what they want to see is to ensure that it is [of] a temporary nature and does not become a permanent facility," adding that the federal agency wants to see progress on the rehabilitation of the engines at Power Plant 1 in order for the eventual discontinuation of Aggreko engines.

"That's going to be critical to be able to continue and be considered an exception to the rule," Muña added.

A recent report prepared by the Georgetown Consulting Group stated that, besides the power plant managed by Tele-source on Tinian, CUC does not have any operating permits for its generating plants.

Fitial, under his declaration of a state of emergency for CUC, has suspended regulatory statutes and regulations for the Aggreko generators. He has directed CUC within 30 days to provide him in writing their plan for compliance or an explanation as to why compliance has not been met.

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# Lawmakers quiz CUC on long-term plans for engines

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
REPORTER

Members of the Senate and House committees on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication expressed concern yesterday whether the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is capable of overhauling the power plant engines on time or will it end up extending the Aggreko contract for temporary generators.

"We're just concerned with the funding issue, whether there is enough money to complete the repairs of the engines and how we can avoid actually extending Aggreko contract," Sen. Paul A. Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the joint Senate and House PUTC's meeting with CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

During the meeting, Muña explained, among other things, CUC's power situa-

tion, the availability of \$5.4 million for the planned engine overhaul and rehabilitation, the option to extend Aggreko's contract, and the Aggreko generators' compliance plans with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Manglona, who chairs the Senate PUTC, pointed out that it is costing the CNMI more to extend the Aggreko contract than pumping in more Capital Improvement Project money now.

"By leasing [generators] from Aggreko, we need to use operational funds. At the same time, many members of the Legislature are becoming frustrated with the way these [power] engines are being put up for repair proposals, putting out bids, then cancellation," he said.

This shows, Manglona said, that CUC doesn't have a handle yet on how to properly put this overhaul and rehabilitation project up for bidding.

The senator said that Muña has assured lawmakers that he is putting somebody on board in January 2009 to oversee the project.

CUC recently hired Wallon Young, a former official at the American Samoa Power Authority, as deputy director of utilities system rehabilitation. He starts work in January.

"Hopefully this person to be paid out of 702 funding can put his finger on the numbers and on the scope of work and the time frame that we need to do this project," Manglona said.

CUC, he said, should get



Manglona

## Cruz: Muna should resign from CUC

By **KRISTI EATON**  
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REPORTER

The president of a local organization is asking Antonio Muña to resign as executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In an e-mail to Muña and several legislators, Gregorio Cruz Jr., president of Taotao Tano, asked Muña to resign, citing CUC's recent hiring of Wallon Young, a former official at the American Samoa Power Authority.

"Please do not be offended but you should turn in your resignation immediately for we now have an expert

on board with the qualified and certified expertise in managing a Public Utilities (Company), and being that he was highly recommended by OIA (Office of Insular Affairs) Mr. Pula, I think he can't afford to screw up with this rehabilitation and repair project," Cruz said.

He pointed out that Muña's salary could be used to pay back some reprogrammed Capital Improvement Program funds or used to cover the expenses of the Aggreko generators.

Muña could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Cruz's request came after he questioned why CUC was

hiring Young, who will earn \$156,000 to \$180,000 each year for a two-year contract, as deputy director of Utilities Systems Rehabilitation.

To which Muna responded, "It's not the salary that is ridiculous. What is ridiculous is how we got ourselves in this mess. 81MW plant only producing 9.5MW, now that's ridiculous. Do not expect that the cure is going to be cheap when the patient is already sick (very sick). What could have been prevented with proper maintenance was not—so expect that the cure will be costly. The lesson to learn here is not to repeat the mistakes of the past."

## Fitial vows to help Asiana investment

The Fitial administration welcomed Asiana Airlines' additional flights from Osaka, vowing to help the airlines' investment in the CNMI.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is very happy with Asiana's inaugural flight from Osaka, Japan, that is coming this Saturday morning.

Reyes said the governor wants to see the continued commitment of airlines to fly to the islands.

"We want to do everything in our power to help facilitate their success in their investment in the Commonwealth," he said.

Reyes said the Asiana flight is reasonably priced. "So we might get more flights from Japan, especially since Korea is down. We suffered a 20-23 percent decline last month in November," he said.

Asiana currently has 18 flights from Korea. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# \$25K bail set for 2 brothers in Kagman assault

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered the posting of \$25,000 cash bail each for brothers Petrus Kelulau (aka Petrus Tomei) and Kabrel Kelulau in connection with an assault with dangerous weapon case.

The Kelulau brothers, who allegedly attacked a resident in Kagman on Monday, appeared at yesterday's bail hearing but failed to post the recommended bail. They were charged separately.

Govendo also subjected them to several conditions, including observing a 7pm-6am curfew. They must also stay away from alcohol and having no contact with the victim, identified as Gloyd Martin, and his family. They will also return to court whenever required and surrender all travel documents and not leave Saipan without court permission.

Assistant Attorney General Mike Evangelista appeared on behalf of the government.

Govendo told the defendants that the court will appoint private lawyers for each of them.

The court found probable cause to charge the defendants with one count of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of assault, one count of disturbing the peace and one count of conspiracy.

The court set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 22 at 9am and the arraignment for Dec. 29, 2008.

In her affidavit, detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated that a female caller reported a disturbance in Kagman about 12:38am on Dec. 15, 2008.

Police responded and met

Petrus who had bloodstains on his clothing. Petrus told police that the bloodstains were that of his brother whom he said he brought to the Fire Substation.

Kelulau said his brother, identified later as the other defendant in the case, was stabbed at the house of Gloyd Martin.

The responding police officers discovered broken objects in front of the driveway and in the yard of Martin's residence. They also found bloodstains on the driveway.

According to Martin, he was

in the shower while his children were sleeping when he heard someone calling his name outside. Martin said he saw Kabrel standing in the garage. Kabrel allegedly told Martin that they are "prepared to kill him."

Martin said that Kabrel took a machete from a jeep parked in the driveway. At that time, Petrus was in the driver's seat.

Martin said he closed the door but saw his 7-year-old son walking out the kitchen door. Kabrel allegedly tried to stab the boy with the machete.

Martin said he ran after his son and brought him back inside the house, then grabbed a bush cutter from the kitchen floor and used it to counter Kabrel's attacks.

He said he hit Kabrel with the tip of the bush cutter in his attempt to stop Kabrel from stabbing him and the fight ended in the garage. Martin told police that he hit Kabrel's head with the bush cutter's en-

gine when Kabrel stepped forward to stab him.

Upon seeing his brother fall to the ground, Martin said that Petrus grabbed the machete and also tried to stab him. They struggled until Petrus hit himself on the garage post.

Martin said Petrus continued to attack him so he hit Petrus with the flat side of the machete, after which Petrus grabbed his brother and took him to the jeep.

Petrus shouted that that he would come back with a gun and kill Martin.

Martin told police that Kabrel had murdered his uncle in Palau a long time ago and had spent a long time in jail, and that Kabrel has a "problem" with Martin's family.

Documents stated that Petrus was taken to the hospital before he was arrested and transported to the Department of Corrections about 2:21am Monday.

## Miura suicide ends shoplifting case

YOKOHAMA (Kyodo)—The October suicide of businessman Kazuyoshi Miura in Los Angeles has closed his case of alleged shoplifting at a Kanagawa Prefecture convenience store in 2007, the Yokohama District Court said Monday.

Miura hanged himself at a Los Angeles detention facility after being moved from Saipan, where he had been arrested in connection with the shooting of his wife in 1981 in Los Angeles. She died of her wound the following year in Japan.

Prosecutors had indicted Miura at the Odawara branch of the Yokohama District Court, accusing him of stealing ¥3,600 worth of merchandise in Hiratsuka in April 2007.

Miura pleaded not guilty during his first trial session in

July 2007.

The shoplifting case was put on hold after Miura was arrested on Saipan in January over his wife's murder. Following the arrest, the Yokohama court decided not to set any date for another trial session. *(The Japan Times)*

## US

From Page 1

Charles Reyes Jr. last night but he was not available as of press time.

The CNMI government has until Jan. 8, 2009, to respond.

U.S. District judge Paul L. Friedman has set the hearing on the CNMI's motion for preliminary injunction and the defendants' motion to dismiss for Jan. 15, 2009.

Fitial filed the lawsuit against the U.S. government, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, and U.S. Department of Labor in September this year.

The lawsuit alleged that the legislation behind the federalization of the CNMI's immigration system threatens to cripple the CNMI economy and breaches the terms of the Covenant with the United States. It alleged that the law President Bush signed earlier this year es-

tablishing federal immigration control in the CNMI will violate the promises of self-government and economic development detailed in the Covenant. It asks the court to bar federal officials from putting the federalization bill into action.

David DeBruin, Sharmila Sohoni, and William M. Hohen-garten of Jenner and Block are representing the CNMI in the case. U.S. Assistant Attorney Robin Michelle Meriweather is the lead attorney representing the U.S. government.

### Lack of standing

In the defendants' motion to dismiss, Justice Department lawyers argued that Fitial does not identify any specific authority or control giving rise to the protection of a concrete interest on his part.

"There is nothing in the complaint alleging a concrete proprietary interest concerning the application of immigration laws that provides the Governor, bringing the suit in an official

capacity, with standing," federal lawyers said.

This compounded by the fact that Fitial does not have the authority to represent the CNMI in this action, they said.

They pointed out that under the CNMI Constitution, the Attorney General is charged with "representing the Commonwealth in all legal matters, and prosecuting violations of Commonwealth law."

DOJ noted that the Office of the Attorney General is not identified as counsel in the complaint, and that questions have been raised in the CNMI as to whether the lawsuit is even authorized under CNMI law.

DOJ cited an Oct. 16, 2008, letter by Rep. Christina Sablan to Fitial requesting certain documents from the governor related to the lawsuit and raising an issue concerning the legal authority in filing the lawsuit.

"This case suffers from numerous jurisdictional flaws and should be dismissed," the DOJ lawyers said.

## NMI

From Page 1

five U.S. territories. The order is based on when the state or territory joined the U.S.

"Like the 50 state quarters

program before it, these new quarters will encourage Americans to appreciate the unique history of the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States," said U.S. Mint director Ed Moy in a statement. "While we focus on each one's

individuality, we also recognize the common thread that unites us all."

The CNMI's design features a latte stone sitting on the shoreline, an outrigger canoe, a pair of white fairy terns, and a mwar.

The design was based on narratives submitted by the CNMI's three-member commemorative coin commission, made up of the governor's special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, attorney Teresa Kim, and Catherine Perry Anderson.

The state quarter program was enacted in 1997 and the first quarter was circulated in 1999. Territories were originally not going to be a part of the program, but in 2007 President Bush signed a bill adding the territories to the program. The U.S. Mint estimates

the state quarter program has generated \$4.6 billion in seigniorage since the program began in 1999.

InvestorWords.com defines seigniorage as the profit that results from the difference in the cost of printing money and the face value of that money.

## ARRIVALS

From Page 1

Tourists from the Philippines accounted for the highest percentage decrease at 30 percent (117 from 168), followed by China and

Hong Kong at 28 percent (2,040 from 2,821), Others at 25 percent (230 from 308), and Korea at 23 percent (8,909 from 8,909).

The top performer in the Saipan market, meanwhile, was Japan with a 30-percent spike in visitor arrivals to 17,055 in

November 2008, compared to 13,087 in November 2007.

While Saipan had a negligible decrease in arrivals, the same cannot be said of Tinian and Rota, which experienced a 32-percent and 30-percent fall in tourism numbers, respectively,

in November 2008.

Tinian saw arrivals decrease to 2,598 last month compared to the 3,822 it welcomed in November 2007.

Drop in visitors from the U.S. (92 percent), China and Hong Kong (44 percent), Guam (42

percent), and Korea (27 percent) more than negated the 15 percent increase in arrivals from Japan last month.

Rota, meanwhile, saw its tourist number dwindle to 723 last month compared to 1,030 during the same period last year.

This comes even as arrivals from Japan jumped an amazing 149 percent (484 from 195), as a decrease in tourists from the U.S. (45 percent), Others (25 percent), and the Philippines (4 percent) continued to plague the southernmost part of the CNMI.

## BORDALLO

From Page 1

tured surprise guest appearances from Hollywood actors Adam Sandler and Rob Schneider. The actors partnered with the

United Service Organizations in spreading holiday wishes to servicemembers at Walter Reed.

"It was heartwarming to hear the kids tell Santa and I what presents they wanted to find underneath their Christmas tree this year," Bordallo said today.

"Our servicemembers have sacrificed in our nation's defense, and it was humbling to share the holiday season with them and their families at Walter Reed."

While at Walter Reed, Bordallo visited with a patient from Guam, U.S. Army Specialist

Paul E. Lujan, Jr. and his wife Viktoria. Lujan is from Yigo and is the son of Paul Lujan Sr. and Maureen Lujan. Lujan had previously been deployed with the 73rd Engineer Company in Mosul, Iraq.

Operation Homefront is a non-

profit organization providing emergency assistance for troops and their families. Moreover, the organization assists the families of servicemembers with everyday needs through its financial assistance program, by providing computers for family members to stay

in contact with deployed servicemembers, by donating household and baby furniture, and through a variety of other initiatives.

More information on Operation Homefront can be found on their website at <http://www.operationhomefront.net>. (PR)



# 'Number of Karidat beneficiaries went up this year'

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**  
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REPORTER

Karidat Social Services expects to end the year with an increase in the number of individuals and families it has assisted.

According to Karidat director Angie Guerrero, this year's number of beneficiaries will surely top last year's, which totaled 5,200.

The final data would be known

in the first week of January.

Guerrero joined Karidat founder Bishop Tomas A. Camacho in receiving Thanksgiving Day donations from the Mayor's Office yesterday morning.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela turned over to Camacho assorted canned goods and a cash donation.

The food donations came from several groups that included the Saipan Community

Church, Jesus Is Lord Church, Saipan Southern High School National Honor Society, Kagman Elementary School, and Saipan Korean Association. Jack and Becky P. Cruz also donated \$20 cash.

Tudela told the bishop that his office is gratified at the community's continued support to provide assistance to needy residents, especially during the observance of Thanksgiving.

He said that, at this time of the year, the Mayor's Office always makes it a point to ask the public for food, clothing and money that will be shared with those in need.

"The Office of the Mayor, in collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, every year turns to the entire community for their most generous donations, and in return all proceeds are presented to the diocese for dis-

tribution, under the direction and supervision of Karidat Social Services," Tudela told the bishop.

Guerrero expressed appreciation to the efforts of the Mayor's Office, especially in these difficult times.

She said that despite the hardship that a lot of families are experiencing, the spirit of giving and sharing is still there.

Guerrero explained that from January to April there would be

no federal grant for emergency food to Karidat.

"These donations would feed the people who need food during that period," she said.

The current emergency food and shelter grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will expire at the end of this year.

She said that they will request for more funding in mid-February and this would be awarded in April.

## Asiana's inaugural Osaka-Saipan flight to touch down on Saturday

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The inaugural flight of Asiana Airlines from Osaka to Saipan will arrive at 2:20am this Saturday, Dec. 20, with no less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gracing the event.

The islands' chief executive will lead a small ceremony that will include presentation of leis to passengers of the flight.

The Osaka-Saipan flight will provide air service three times a week until March 2009.

The South Korean airline will

use a 177-seat Airbus plane to service the route, which the Marianas Visitors Authority anticipates will bring more than 20,000 travelers—based on 531 seats per week—to the CNMI during its first year of operation.

The thrice-weekly Osaka-Saipan flights will bump Asiana Airlines' service to the CNMI to 21.

The additional service is part of the Asian Airline's continuing commitment to increase daytime flights to the Commonwealth, which it made soon after its parent company, Kumho

Asiana, bought the sprawling Laolao Bay Golf Resort in February 2007.

The Osaka-Saipan flights will also be part of Asiana Airlines' new code-sharing agreement with All-Nippon Airways, or ANA. Aside from the flight, lo-

cal ANA services linked to the code-sharing agreement with Asian Airlines are Kansai and Sapporo and Fukuoka and Kagoshima.

The two carriers began code-sharing operation on Dec. 1 with the link up between Kansai

Airport and Gimpo Airport in Seoul. It marks the first time in 16 years that Saipan once again became part of the network.

Under the deal, frequent flyer members of either airline will be able to accumulate and redeem mileage on the code-sharing

flights.

Last month, the CNMI witnessed a 32-percent increase in tourist arrivals from Japan, as 17,539 visited the islands in November 2008 compared to 13,282 during the same period in 2007.

## Trees, electrical faults cause outages

Electrical faults and falling tree branches are to blame for outages Sunday and Monday, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

On Sunday, an electrical fault in the Obyan area caused the breakers at the Chalan Kiya Substation to activate. This caused several Kiyas to trip. The affected areas were:

■ Kiya 1: Entire Grid (As Terlaje, NMC, Botanical Garden, portions of Fina Sis, Lower Dandan, upper Dandan Homestead, Isley Field, Kanat Tabla, As Perdido and San Vicente)

■ Kiya 2: Entire Grid (As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio, Afetnas, portions of Fina Sis, Chalan Piao and portions of Chalan Kanoa)

■ Kiya 4: Entire Grid (Chalan

Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa)

Two insulators in the Obyan switchgears were found shattered. The switchgears supply electrical power to 15 water wells in Obyan. Because of this, water was limited to 65 percent. However, the water division shifted water supplies to the new Kannat Tabla Super Blue Tank and the Dandan Tank.

On Monday, tree branches fell on high voltage lines in the memorial park grounds, affecting portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Hotel Street, and Beach Road Garapan south to the San Jose Intersection. The area was restored at 11:15pm.

(Kristi Eaton)

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Pursuant to local and federal public health guidelines you are required to obtain an eye exam prior to December 31st of each year. Failure to do so may result in serious consequences including loss of vision and permanent blindness.

The cost of your exam is covered by medical insurance. If you are unable to pay, funding is available to cover your costs.

Report immediately to Marianas Eye Institute, Monday to Friday 8AM - 5PM or Saturday 9AM to 1PM. Marianas Eye Institute is located on Beach Road, Garapan across 13 Fishermen Monument. Tel. 235-9090. Deadline extensions available.

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## IN DEFENDING PROPOSED \$36.4M FOR PSS

## Even PSS should be accountable—Pangelinan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

When it comes to expending public funds, everybody has to be accountable, even the Public School System, according to Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan in defending the Legislature's proposed \$36.4 million budget for PSS this fiscal year.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Pangelinan said she has high respect for the Board of Education and that she is willing to sit down with board members so that education officials will have a better understanding of how PSS is budgeted.

BOE vice chair Herman T.

Guerrero had reportedly complained that the lawmakers' "bad mathematics" would affect the education of the islands' schoolchildren.

PSS' current budget is at \$35 million.

Pangelinan, who chairs the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, said she wants to make education officials understand that "the reduction in costs is actually for nonexistent costs."

She said PSS officials should understand that there is actually no cut in their budget and that the data from 2003 up to the present would show that the Legislature really gives education a priority.

"It's public money and everybody has to be accountable. Just because [the expenditure is] in the name of education and students doesn't mean they [PSS officials] cannot be questioned or be held accountable," Pangelinan said.

Pangelinan pointed out that federal money was not a factor in the Legislature's formulation of the PSS budget.

"But since they highlighted to the media what the federal money is paying on certain expenditures, we also want to make sure that in this time of austerity, the general fund is not duplicating funding [for expenses that are] already being paid for under

federal programs money," the senator said.

Pangelinan said the bottom line is that the CNMI does not have the levels of revenues it did five years ago.

"The Legislature worked very hard to preserve as much funding for PSS as possible," she added.

However, she said, they cannot afford to maintain the same level of funding for everyone despite giving education a priority.

Pangelinan cited that even the states in the U.S. mainland recognize that they have to cut down funding, even for kindergarten to 12th grade and public colleges.

"The CNMI is not exempted from this crisis," she emphasized.

The senator said she has been reviewing the 2003 to 2007 audit report of PSS to give her a better understanding of how they're operating. She urged BOE to start looking at the 2003 to 2007 audit reports and all the federal monies that are being received by PSS.

Pangelinan said that Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios have already stated that work on the 2010

budget "begins tomorrow."

She said they would like to sit down with education officials and work on the process that is needed.

"We want to make sure that, like everybody else, the priority is our students' learning improvement, and the funds reaching the schools. I don't have any problem with that and that's the reason why we expect accountability, especially in this time of economic turmoil and dwindling resources," Pangelinan said.

## Man allegedly assaults, robs a female Beach Road jogger

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**  
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REPORTER

A 32-year old man who allegedly sexually assaulted and robbed a female jogger along Beach Road was arrested by police Friday night.

The suspect, Alfred Obak, later told police that he was drunk and high on marijuana when he committed the crime.

Court documents state that the suspect stole the victim's \$20 during the assault.

He is now charged with robbery and second-degree sexual assault and assault and battery.

During the bail hearing Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$21,000 cash bail on the suspect. He failed to post bail.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing to Dec. 22 and arraignment is on Dec. 29.

According to the statement of Detective Abraham C. Villagomez, the victim told police that she was walking south along the Beach Road pathway in San Jose near the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill around 7:10pm on Dec. 12 when the suspect came from behind and pushed her to the ground.

The victim alleged that Obak touched her private parts and groped her right breast.

The woman said she tried to fight back by kicking him but felt that she was no match against his strength, so she screamed for help.

At her scream, the suspect stopped attacking her but grabbed her right ankle and began pulling her to the beachside. The suspect then tried to choke the victim but she screamed again and that's when the suspect took off, running north along the beach side.

The victim immediately called 911 and reported the incident to the police.

Police Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar immediately responded and found the suspect at the CUC Pump Station No. 12. Police said the suspect was sweating profusely. They brought the victim to the location and she positively identified Obak as the person who allegedly attacked her.

Obak later explained that he was forced to do what he did due to family problems. He said he spent his last money on beer and had smoked a joint before the incident.

Obak allegedly told police that, after he finished his beer, he saw the victim pass along the pathway so he followed her until he got close to the Oleai Beach Club where he tried to rob her.

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# iCONNECT'S HOLIDAY PHONE SPECIALS



**i415**  
Postpaid  
**FREE**  
with any plan

Prepaid  
only \$33  
with **\$30**  
airtime value



**i425**  
Postpaid  
only **\$48.88**  
with any plan

Prepaid  
only \$78.88  
with **\$12.50**  
airtime value



**i455**  
Postpaid  
only **\$38.88**  
with any plan

Prepaid  
only \$88.88  
with **\$12.50**  
airtime value



**i335**  
Postpaid  
only **\$78.88**  
with any plan

Prepaid  
only \$138.88  
with **\$30**  
airtime value



**i776**  
Postpaid  
only **\$100**  
with iKEEP \$68.88  
or higher plans on  
24 month contract

Regular Price  
**\$340**  
Prepaid  
**\$200**



**i880**  
Postpaid  
only **\$100**  
with iKEEP \$68.88  
or higher plans on  
24 month contract

Regular Price  
**\$320**  
Prepaid  
**\$260**



**i580**  
Postpaid  
only **\$190**  
with iKEEP \$68.88  
or higher plans on  
24 month contract

Regular Price  
**\$400**  
Prepaid  
**\$300**

## iCONNECT'S HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR ALL

iConnect is celebrating the Holidays with unbelievable FREE gifts with purchase!

**FREE** with every 24-month  
postpaid subscription.

### MOTOROLA H680 BLUETOOTH HEADSET

Voted **Best Voice Headset** according to  
Money Magazine.  
Universal - works with compatible Bluetooth  
enabled phones.  
A \$79.99 value.



### 1 GB. CREDIT CARD TYPE EXECUTIVE USB FLASH DRIVE

**FREE**  
with every 12-month  
postpaid subscription.  
A \$20 value.



### COMPACT 14-LED SUPERBRIGHT FLASHLIGHT

**FREE**  
with every prepaid  
phone purchase.  
A \$12 value.



Available in Black, Silver & Pink.

Regular and Prepaid phone prices do not include sim card  
& Prepaid load. Prices are subject to change without prior  
notice. Please ask us about our special prices on Prepaid &  
Postpaid handsets.

Conditions apply. While supplies last.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### COJHS to hold Parent Literacy Night

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having its 1<sup>st</sup> Parent Literacy Night tomorrow, Dec. 18, 2008, from 5pm-7pm. We are encouraging all COJHS parents to attend this event. Students are also welcome to attend, only if their parents are also attending the Parent Literacy Night. Should you have any questions and/or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. **(PR)**

### SSHS PTA meeting today

To all parents, legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting today, Dec. 17, 2008, at 6pm in the cafeteria, and also mid-progress report will be issued from 4pm

to 7pm. The reports may be picked up at the teachers' classrooms. All students will be dismissed at 1pm. **(PR)**

### Kagman High calendar of activities

- Dec. 17 Parent Advisory Committee meeting
- Dec. 18 Principals' meeting
- Dec. 22 KHS accreditation team meets with BOE/COE
- Dec. 23 Christmas 2008 bash at the school campus, 6pm-10pm.
- Dec. 24 2008 to Jan. 4 2009: Christmas break
- Jan. 5 2009 Classes resume

### Live-fire training on Farallon

The U.S. military is currently conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendonilla until Dec. 19, 2008, from 9am to 9pm, on the island's training area on a 10 nautical radius on all quadrants. The Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated. For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine

CHNL 16 and HF single side band radio on 5.205.0. **(EMO)**

### Vendors sought for Puengin Inetnon

The Kagman Komunitat Association is looking for interested vendors to sell food, clothing, games, and other types of family oriented entertainment for "Puengin Inetnon."

"Puengin Inetnon" is Chamorro for "a night of gathering."

It will be similar to the Thursday Night Street Market in Garapan except that it will be held every government payday

Friday at the Kagman Community Center. Interested vendors, volunteers, and performers may call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. **(PR)**

### Marianas High School schedule

Dec. 17 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter mid progress report day, 4pm-6pm. Parents/guardians pick up reports from homeroom teachers (Students will be released at 1pm).

Dec. 24-Jan. 2 No classes (Christmas break)

For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. **(PR)**



PAWS

### UP FOR ADOPTION

PAWS is desperately trying to find a new home for this dog before Christmas. According to PAWS president Katie Busenkell, "this poor guy has been at a foster family's place for nearly four months. The family is now ready to move and they can't take him with them to the new house." The dog's name is Apollo. He is about 1-2 years old, male, with short brown hair, and has had his annual vaccinations in September 2008. If you or someone you know is interested in adopting a friendly, family-oriented male boonie dog, contact Maria at mdcowden@gmail.com or 256-0340. You may also called PAWS at 285-PAWS.

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
REGINA C. TORRES a/k/a )  
REGINA ANN TORRES )  
BLANCO, )  
Defendant. )

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0069 BE

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 2, 2008, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1044 containing an area of 796 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 19, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4287, dated December 9, 1993.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 2nd, January, 2009, at the hour of 3:00 p.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, December 5, 2008.

CARLSMITH BALL LLP  
/s/ Vincent J. Seman, F0361  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
BankPacifi, Ltd.

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Estate of MATEO M. TAISACAN and )  
The Estate of SABINA M. TAISACAN )  
Plaintiffs, )  
vs. )  
JUAN B. QUITUGUA, )  
Defendants. )

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0099

### SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiffs Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing Your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2008:



### Commonwealth Of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW09-IFB-002

### CONSTRUCTION OF SABANA ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, ROUTE II ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Sabana Road and Drainage Improvements Route 11, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (ROTA).

The project package will be available on or after December 10, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (Ole) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on December 30, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 20, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW09-IFB-002". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 23, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 23, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 23, 2009, and must be received no later than February 3, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 5, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 27, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Two hundred Forty (240) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSON  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director, Procurement & Supply

# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### December 17, 1998

#### 902 talks on track again

President Bill Clinton's special representative to the Section 902 consultations, Edward B. Cohen, will be arriving in the Northern Marianas on Jan. 18, 1999 to finally find solution to problems that have strained CNMI-US relations. According to Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, CNMI's chief negotiator, Cohen has sent a letter informing him of his intention to resume the stalled bilateral talks which has been postponed twice. "We are now preparing to convene the negotiating team to meet again and discuss the areas which we need to emphasize," said Sablan. He said the CNMI panel will meet today to finalize the issues which will be covered in the meeting with Cohen.

#### Legislators loosen belt-tightening in hiring

Despite shrinking cash resources of the government, the House of Representatives yesterday voted to approve three additional full-time employees for the Division of Sanitation Services over fears of potential delay in public service due to lack of manpower. A joint resolution will seek the Department of Public Health to reprogram some of its funds to pay about \$60,000 in total annual salary for the three new positions under the current budget allocation of the government. The resolution was passed in a special House session yesterday and now heads to the Senate for approval before it becomes effective, according to representatives.

### December 17, 2001

#### Plans to detain Taliban on Tinian thrill businessmen

TINIAN—Local businessmen here chorused in saying that making Tinian a holding area for arrested Taliban warriors will help revive the island's economy through increased spending activities that will come akin to the arrival of military personnel. The plan would also give Tinian and the rest of the Northern Marianas international exposure from some of the world's largest media entities that are expected to send in reporters on the island for coverage. Tinian businessmen complained that revenues reached rock bottom since after the September 11 terror attacks on the US, as they project better sales figures if plans to detain Afghan warriors on the island pushed through.

#### Boy gets wish to take part in fire drill

Shy and soft-spoken, Saipan's youngest and first-ever honorary firefighter, Patrick S., took part in a fire-and-rescue drill held at the Governor's Office Friday morning, with brawny firemen leading the frail-looking boy through the ropes of the demonstration. Five-year-old Patrick, who has a hypoplastic right ventricle (heart) problem, was also accompanied by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who took a break from his customary office routine to play host to the young boy. When later asked if he enjoyed himself, Patrick shyly nodded but he refused to answer further questions by reporters.

### December 17, 2002

#### Price gouging complaints up

ROTA-Residents are complaining that some retailers on the island have jacked up the prices of basic commodities, even as food supplies remain limited after the worst typhoon ever to hit the Marianas left the island a wreck. This has prompted the Attorney General's Office yesterday to warn merchants that it would file criminal and civil cases against anyone who is caught engaged in price gouging. Commerce Secretary Fermin Atalig, who was on the island Saturday, warned that price gouging carries stiff penalties, including imprisonment and a permanent prohibition to engage in business again.

#### Heinz: \$19-M loan's terms 'impractical'

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider favors the expeditious release of overdue rebates and refunds before Christmas but not at the expense of the entire Commonwealth's future financial fate. This, as he branded as "impractical" the \$19-million loan being eyed by the government to secure from the Bank of Guam, considering the kind of collateral the banking institution reportedly proposes. "People have got to slow down and look at what is the most practical. Everybody is desirous to give the people their deserved refund and rebate [this] December, but not at the expense of subjecting the entire Commonwealth. And the possibility is very real that we will not be able to meet that based on the conditions set by BoG," Hofschneider said during an interview yesterday.



# Financial aid workshop to be broadcast to Rota, Tinian

Rota and Tinian students and parents who are interested in learning more about finding money for college will be able to participate in the upcoming Free Financial Aid Workshop sponsored by the College Access Challenge Project administered at the Northern Marianas College.

The workshop will be broad-

casted live through federal funding provided by the Administration for Native Americans. Rota and Tinian residents who wish to watch the workshop live must arrive at the NMC Instructional Sites on Tinian and Rota before 4:45pm.

Scheduled for tomorrow, Dec. 18, 2008, from 5pm to 7pm at the Fiesta Resort Hibiscus Hall,

the Free Financial Aid Workshop will feature presentations from current college students and prominent college graduates. Financial aid experts will also walk participants through the process of filling out federal financial aid forms and scholarship applications.

Participants of the upcoming workshop will also receive a

waiver of application and placement test fees for NMC's Spring 2009 semester.

The College Access Challenge Project aims to increase college enrollment and retention among the CNMI's public high school graduates. The Project will be awarding direct financial aid in the form of need-based grants and tuition and fees assis-

tance to qualified participants. The grant will be complemented by academic support services, which will include tutoring, personal counseling, and a variety of educational activities and workshops to prepare students for success in college.

Administered by NMC, the project will draw from the expertise of the college's staff,

other students, and local financial aid representatives. NMC staff will also assist students with admission and financial aid applications.

The CACP is funded by a federal grant under the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number of low-income students who enroll and succeed in college. (NMC)

## Surging seas displace 9,000 in East Sepik

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—About 9,000 people in East Sepik have been directly affected by the severe seas experienced throughout the country early last week.

This confirmation was made through the long delayed reports from the province submitted to the National Disaster Centre on Friday.

The reports indicated that while other provinces, especially Manus, New Ireland, Bougainville, Morobe and Milne Bay Provinces have had their story to tell, East Sepik's indicated Wewak town, including its key installations, are under threat.

The NDS said these installations include electricity, Boram Hospital, telecommunications, post office and the wharf. The priority is to secure these services and may mean building sandbanks to protect them from further inundation.

A meeting held between the officers of the National Disaster Service and the chief executive officers of various government statutory corporations on Saturday was described by NDS director Martin Mose as disgusting because it was poorly attended. Mose said that, while they were grateful for PNG Power's efforts in attending the meeting, the PNG Ports Corporation had been totally uncooperative with both the disaster centre and the East Sepik Provincial Disaster

## Thousands in need across PNG after massive waves

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—More than 200 families were left homeless in the Tewae/Siassi district of Morobe Province after big waves hit their villages last week.

Morobe provincial disaster and emergency director Roy Kamen confirmed the destruction yesterday, saying the villages affected were within Wasu and Siassi Island where houses and water wells were destroyed by the waves.

Reports received on Saturday said 151 families were left homeless at Wasu while there were 33 at Siassi Island.

"The villages affected were Malasanga, Kiria (Wasu), Lokep and Aromot Island (Siassi)," he said.

Kamen also said villages near the border of Morobe and Madang were affected but the reports were yet to be confirmed.

Committee. The report stated that major shops and markets in Wewak Town are also under threat and the road connecting Moem Barracks to Wewak Town is impassable.

Plans for an alternative route are urgently needed at this stage.

Yesterday, Mose said the Papua New Guinea Defence Force

However he said first relief supplies were dispatched at the weekend. "We have dispatched our first relief supplies, especially water containers on Saturday," he said.

He said the supplies were not delivered quickly because there were no boats.

Kamen also said assessment on Siassi would not be carried out because the helicopter was not fitted with floats and could not fly over the sea.

He said the water containers would be dispatched at Sialum to be taken to Lokep Island.

He said Kampalap village on the mainland of Siassi was also affected but could not verify the amount of damage done or the number of the houses and people affected.

He said there was nobody on the ground to assess the amount of damage done and to give proper reports.

engineers would be engaged for the restoration and would liaise with the national Department of Works for possible help.

The report stated the Moem Barracks armory was partially underwater and the NDS Centre in Port Moresby was organizing to send two military experts to remove the explosives held there.



NMC/CDI

Awardees of the Northern Marianas College's Community Development's Computer Literacy Courses and Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses pose for a photo with NMC staff.

## NMC students finish computer and customer service classes

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently recognized several individuals who completed the program's Computer Literacy Courses and Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses.

These courses included "How to Use Word Processing Applications," "Creating Digital Presentations," "Time Management," "Communication in the Workplace," and other classes which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills.

The classes are also geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

"The classes provide direct, immediate benefits to students who are looking to improve their job skills," said NMC acting president Felicitas Abraham. "At the same time, the classes also contribute to the Commonwealth's economic growth by enhancing the skill sets of our local workforce."

Awardees included Rosario

Camacho, Memorina Olopai, Jennifer Ada, David Apatang, Norlyn Cabrera, Crystal Lizama, Yolanda Muna, and Ireksin Made. The group is the second batch of individuals who have completed the skills-enhancing courses.

The Community Development Institute is offering another cycle of classes that is open to community members. For more information, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1010, e-mail leso@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu to see a schedule of classes. (NMC)

## SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	014E	12/6 Sat	12/4 Thu	12/4 Thu	12/2 Tue	11/29 Sat	12/12 Fri	12/8 Mon	12/7 Sun	11/30 Sun	11/30 Sun	12/8 Mon	12/12 Fri	12/14 Sun	12/16 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	019E	12/13 Sat	12/11 Thu	12/11 Thu	12/9 Tue	12/6 Sat	12/19 Fri	12/15 Mon	12/14 Sun	12/7 Sun	12/7 Sun	12/15 Mon	12/19 Fri	12/21 Sun	12/23 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	027E	12/20 Sat	12/18 Thu	12/18 Thu	12/16 Tue	12/13 Sat	12/26 Fri	12/22 Mon	12/21 Sun	12/14 Sun	12/14 Sun	12/22 Mon	12/26 Fri	12/28 Sun	SKIP
MELL SENOKO	015E	12/27 Sat	12/25 Thu	12/25 Thu	12/23 Tue	12/20 Sat	1/2 Fri	12/29 Mon	12/28 Sun	12/21 Sun	12/21 Sun	12/29 Mon	1/2 Fri	1/4 Sun	1/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	014E	1/3 Sat	1/1 Thu	1/1 Thu	12/30 Tue	12/27 Sat	1/9 Fri	1/5 Mon	1/4 Sun	12/28 Sun	12/28 Sun	1/5 Mon	1/9 Fri	1/11 Sun	1/13 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	028E	1/10 Sat	1/8 Thu	1/8 Thu	1/6 Tue	1/3 Sat	1/16 Fri	1/12 Mon	1/11 Sun	1/4 Sun	1/4 Sun	1/12 Mon	1/16 Fri	1/18 Sun	1/20 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	014E	12/20 Sat	12/21 Sun	12/21 Sun	12/23 Tue	12/25 Thu	12/27 Sat	12/28 Sun	12/30 Tue	1/2 Fri	1/3 Sat	1/8 Thu	1/27 Tue	1/25 Sun
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STADT HAMBURG	027E	1/3 Sat	1/4 Sun	1/4 Sun	1/6 Tue	1/8 Thu	1/10 Sat	1/11 Sun	1/13 Tue	1/16 Fri	1/17 Sat	1/22 Thu	2/10 Tue	2/8 Sun
MELL SENOKO	015E	1/10 Sat	1/11 Sun	1/11 Sun	SKIP	1/15 Thu	1/17 Sat	1/18 Sun	1/20 Tue	1/23 Fri	1/24 Sat	1/29 Thu	2/17 Tue	2/15 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	014E	1/17 Sat	1/18 Sun	1/18 Sun	1/20 Tue	1/22 Thu	1/24 Sat	1/25 Sun	1/27 Tue	1/30 Fri	1/31 Sat	2/5 Thu	2/24 Tue	2/22 Sun
STADT HAMBURG	028E	1/24 Sat	1/25 Sun	1/25 Sun	SKIP	1/29 Thu	1/31 Sat	2/1 Sun	2/3 Tue	2/6 Fri	2/7 Sat	2/12 Thu	3/3 Tue	3/1 Sun

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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### EDITORIAL

## Three kernels of corn

We tend to think of concentration camps as belonging in history books, but Shin Dong-hyuk reminds us of the uglier truth. Mr. Shin, who is 26, was born in such a camp in North Korea and lived there until he escaped in 2005. He is, in fact, the only person known to have made a successful escape from one of that nation's prison camps, which hold an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 people.

Mr. Shin's story, which *Post* reporter Blaine Harden movingly recounted in an article last week, was horrifying on a couple of counts. The casual, routine brutality of the camps is, as the article noted, almost unfathomable. Part of Mr. Shin's finger was cut off as punishment for accidentally dropping a sewing machine in the factory of the camp where he was held. He bears scars from the torture of being, essentially, roasted over a charcoal fire. When he was 14, he watched as his mother was hanged and his brother shot to death, ostensibly for trying to escape. In a memoir, he writes of the "lucky day" when he found, in a pile of cow dung, three kernels of corn that he was able to wash off and eat.

It's horrifying, on another level, that only 500 people in South Korea, where Mr. Shin lives, have bought his book. Many Koreans don't want to hear about human rights abuses in the north; they're worried that the Communist regime might collapse and leave the more prosperous south with a costly burden of rehabilitation. And South Korea isn't alone in tuning out the horrors. The United States is more concerned with containing North Korea's nuclear ambitions. The State Department's stunning lack of urgency was captured in a recent statement from its assistant secretary for Asia, Christopher R. Hill: "Each country, including our own, needs to improve its human rights record." Japan is focused on Japanese citizens abducted forcibly to North Korea. China doesn't want instability across its border.

Mr. Hill's larger point is that the United States should be practical in relations with the north and not simply denounce abuses so that America can feel good about itself. We support his efforts to negotiate with the regime. It's worth noting, though, that last week the north yet again backtracked on a nuclear-related agreement it had made and Mr. Hill had vouched for. It will continue to honor such agreements, or not, based on a reading of its own interests, not on whether its negotiating partners do or don't speak honestly. We think there's an inverse relationship between a regime's trustworthiness on any subject and its propensity to abuse its own people. We also believe that it should not be left to the lone escapee from North Korea's gulag to speak out about its horror.

High school students in America debate why President Franklin D. Roosevelt didn't bomb the rail lines to Hitler's camps. Their children may ask, a generation from now, why the West stared at far clearer satellite images of Kim Jong Il's camps, and did nothing.

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"Among the latest layoffs are twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords-a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking..."

## 5 myths about our sputtering economy

For months now, the nation's economic obituary has been splashed across the front pages of nearly every newspaper in the country. Journalists and pundits alike have warned that America's long-running global dominance has come to a screeching halt, eclipsed by growing markets in such places as China and India and frittered away by our own mismanagement, excesses and myopic approach to the future. We're long past due for a reality check. The United States and the incoming Obama administration face formidable challenges, but the country is by no means on its last legs. Here are a few key myths that need to be dispelled.

### 1. The United States has lost its competitive edge.

Not by a long shot. By almost any measure, the United States continues to outperform other countries around the globe (including rising giants China and India) in such areas as innovation, technology, higher education, worker training, the ability of the labor force to move from job to job, and more. Just this fall, the Swiss-based World Economic Forum released its latest global competitiveness report, and once again, the United States easily topped the list. The study noted that despite the current financial turmoil, the United States is blessed with strong productivity and can "ride out business-cycle shifts and economic shocks" better than other countries.

### 2. The United States long ago gave up its global lead in manufacturing to China.

Not yet. Yes, U.S. production plummeted this fall, and yes, the domestic auto industry—the poster child for America's aging manufacturing infrastructure—will never return to the output it could manage a decade ago. But even with all this grim news, the United States has held on to its manufacturing lead—particularly in such key sectors as pharmaceuticals and aerospace, in which it produces almost 25 percent of the world's output, according to the World Bank. China produces roughly two-thirds that amount, the bank notes, and the global downturn has badly hurt its manufacturing sector over the past several months. Sure, China and India have been closing the gap, but with a little bit of creativity, vision and determination on the part of U.S. industry, the Obama administration and Congress, we can hold our own.

### 3. The U.S. economy is about to be eclipsed by China's.

Not for some time to come. The World Bank estimates that global GDP last year was more than \$56 trillion dollars. The United States contributed almost \$14 trillion (or 25 percent) of that amount. China's total economy amounted to a bit more than \$3 trillion.

Of course, China and other countries such as India and Brazil are growing far faster than the United States, but then again, we were wealthier to begin with. Let's be realistic. The turmoil in the financial markets will reduce U.S. GDP in 2008 and 2009, but China's economy will contract too. No matter how you calculate growth projections, realistically, it will be decades before China is within striking distance of the United States.

And as for those other budding economies now coming on line,

By JAMES P. MOORE JR.  
Special to The Washington Post

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don't expect them to outstrip us any time soon, either. Despite its strong growth rates, Brazil has an economy that's approximately the size of Florida's and Illinois' combined. Russia, which spans 11 time zones and has vast natural resources, had an economy that was on a par with that of Texas last year. Even India, a bright spot on the global stage for almost a decade now, still has a GDP that's less than half of California's. These countries will be formidable indeed at some point, but they still have a long way to go.

### 4. The United States is no longer the economic engine of world trade.

Not true. For three decades now, we have amassed staggering trade deficits, amounting to several trillion dollars (and growing), but U.S. consumers have still helped add substantially to the growth of most countries around the world.

When it comes to imports, of course, the United States buys far more products from overseas than either China or Germany. But in terms of exports, all three countries are closely bunched together, at just over \$1 trillion each. There is simply no country, now or in the immediate future, that can replace the United States' sheer global buying power.

### 5. The United States is no longer an attractive market for investment.

Hardly. Investments here are transparent, well protected and have a long track record of healthy returns. So even with Wall Street reeling, the United States is a compelling place to invest. Of course, today's liquidity crisis originated here, but the value of the U.S. dollar has risen dramatically over the past few weeks, and foreign investors have flocked to U.S. investments and financial instruments as a (relatively) safe haven amid global uncertainties. No wonder the United States attracted more than \$2 trillion worth of foreign direct investment last year, according to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. (The United Kingdom, Hong Kong and France—the next three top finishers—each registered just over \$1 trillion.)

So where does that leave us? As Warren Buffett put it recently, the U.S. economy has gone from springing a few leaks to spewing one big gusher. But given our history and unique ability to adapt, we are anything but down and out. The world has changed, and the United States must respond more nimbly to the hard realities of global interdependence. But as "the sage of Omaha" reminded us, this is a fine time to buy into the long-term future of America—not out of blind patriotism but because it makes good, sound business sense.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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## Conversation #6: The one hindrance to perfect health

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

*The following is an excerpt from The Ageless Adept:*

"There is only one hindrance to perfect health....And that hindrance, my friend, yes, the greatest obstacle to health and advancement...." the Adept began, pausing for dramatic effect.

I waited with baited breath.

"...is deception."

I pondered the statement for a moment. "So who is doing the deceiving?" I asked.

"Good question," he said, "But before *you* answer it, let's explore and understand the nature of deception. This will serve you well in any discussion. So let's start by broadening our definition of what a lie is:

"Anything that omits the truth is a lie.

"Anything that distorts the truth is a lie.

"Anything that reduces truth is a lie.

"Anything that is intended to replace truth is a lie.

"Anything that delays revelation of truth is a lie.

"Now, there are two types of lies. There are lies of commission and lies of omission; things that are done, and things that are not done; things said, and things left unsaid. There are overt and subtle acts of deception.

"There are many levels and layers to the deception blocking society's advancement. Some of it is conscious deception. Some of it is unconscious deception. Those in possession of truth consciously suppress it for their personal advancement. Then, others who are fed the lies as truths unwittingly perpetuate the beliefs, and thus become unconscious co-conspirators in the deception.

"So you asked who is doing the deceiving. You already know the answer. The best thing I can do is help you hone your critical thinking skills so you can decipher and detect for yourself the web being spun. The questions are simple. First, who benefits from keeping people in the dark about the body's code?" the Adept asked.

"Doctors and drug companies," I replied. "But are they doing it willfully? Aren't they just caught up in the deception as well? I mean, they can't help it if people get sick, can they? They're just providing a needed service in the face of the inevitable. People are going to get sick."

"Fair enough," the Adept said. So let's ask some more questions. You believe Nature is perfect, correct?"

"Well, yes—"

"And you *now* know that the body is coded to heal. Is that not also true?"

"Yes," I replied, sensing a trap, but not being able to leap far enough ahead in thought to save myself.

"You also know that there is only one illness, correct?" he continued.

"Yes."

## Freedom fighters need not apply

At a hearing in April, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff was asked about an Iraqi Kurd who had served as an interpreter for Marines in Iraq for nearly four years but had been branded "a member of a terrorist organization" and denied permanent residence in the United States because of his past membership in the Kurdish Democratic Party. Chertoff responded: "With respect to Mr. Ahmad, the translator, I waived the objection to his getting a green card yesterday, so we're out of Alice in Wonderland."

As it so happened, 10 days before Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy asked Chertoff this question, the story of Saman Kareem Ahmad—an extreme but hardly isolated instance of the Department of Homeland Security ruling that former freedom fighters are in fact terrorists—had been told in a front-page story in *The Washington Post*.

The timing was not lost on Leahy, who asked Chertoff: "Is each of these cases going to require a major story in *The Washington Post* or ... a congressional hearing before they get resolved?"

Unfortunately, they may.

For several years, many genuine refugees and asylum seekers have been blacklisted by the USA Patriot Act's overly broad definition of a "terrorist organization," a domestic determination with global consequences. In fiscal 2007, about 15,000 refugees were ruled ineligible to enter the United States on grounds related to terrorism, according to International Rescue Committee estimates. Publicity has led to exceptions being made for some refugees and some grounds for rejection being waived, but the problem is far from resolved.

While traveling for the International Rescue Committee last

"And that food and fasting facilitate the flow of blockage. A flow that you yourself have proven in just these six days here with me?"

"Yes, go on," I said.

"So, if we—you and I—were able to prove this ourselves; and if these truths are self-evident to the least among us on the planet; intuitive and provable by those who survive by their mental faculties; knowable by those that survive by instinct, then why haven't medical minds of supposed education, reason and advancement been able to come to the same conclusions?"

I pondered for a moment. "Good question. Perhaps they don't believe it," I said. "Or maybe they're looking in the wrong direction."

"Well, the truth is, the reason's not important. Would you agree that whatever the reason, certain people benefit from things being in their current state?"

"Yes," I replied. "Professions, industries, and the entire system of healthcare have been set up based on things the way they are."

"Exactly. Economic survival is the basic benefit. Now then, where do you find the specific information that either omits, distorts, reduces, replaces or delays the truths that we, you and I, both now know?"

"Well, there's hospitals, supermarkets, television, radio, magazines, doctor's offices, heck, just about everywhere!" I replied.

"So it is evident, logical, deducible and obvious, therefore," the adept said, "that whether consciously or unconsciously, whether overtly or covertly, whether through commission or omission, lies are being maintained, and it is in many people's interest to maintain those lies."

"I agree," I said.

"So, to answer your question of who is doing the deceiving, therefore, you could blame the medical profession. You could blame the food industry. You could blame the media. You could even blame capitalism in general. But each answer would only be partly true. More accurately, it's the *combined* deceptions of a medical profession in conjunction with a food industry, aided by media who are all subverted by a capitalist directive."

"That's pretty deep," I said.

He continued, "There are individuals, organizations, industries, councils, lobbies, associations, societies, alliances, academies, boards, colleges and government agencies that are avoiding, undermining, omitting, distorting, delaying, artificially flavoring and coloring truth in the interests of survival in a capitalistic society.

"Now, don't get me wrong. There's nothing wrong with capitalism per se. It's a requirement of our survival in this society that we subscribe at least in part to capitalistic directives and requirements. What I *am* saying is that when the dispensation of health and cure is based on the need to keep a business solvent, it's already a conflict of interest. To keep a business healthy, you need sick customers. It's really that simple.

"We're lost in a loop of lies in a den of deception. Each participant in the lie has a theoretical operational objective that unfortunately has been subverted into a deception.

"Food companies, operating under the deception of nutrition, create foods that suppress the body's code, and illness results. That illness creates a need.

"Drug companies, operating under the deception of cure, create

month, I encountered an Iraqi Shiite whose two brothers answered President George H.W. Bush's 1991 call to rise up against Saddam Hussein. Both were killed. Despite his family's sacrifices on behalf of U.S. efforts to establish democracy in Iraq, this man was not admitted to the United States because of information in his file suggesting (erroneously) that he, too, participated in the uprising. After DHS interviewers deemed him a "member of a terrorist organization," he was resettled to Sweden.

The problem is not just that freedom fighters cannot gain access to the United States. Denials of permanent residence are wrecking the lives of people who have been living in this country for years, many of whom were granted refugee status precisely because they were freedom fighters. In September, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said it had denied nearly 700 of these green card applications this year because of this bar.

The denials have included that of a Burmese lawyer who had smuggled anti-government brochures into Burma from Thailand; an Afghan owner of a muffler shop in Flushing, N.Y., who fought on the side of the mujaheddin; and an Afghan man who—just like the CIA—assisted the mujaheddin by supplying it with clothes, food, medicine and money.

Thomas Ragland, a lawyer for Ahmad, has another Kurdish Iraqi client who served as an interpreter for U.S. troops and is accused of being a member of the same supposedly "terrorist" Kurdish Democratic Party—whose representatives now sit in the Iraqi parliament in Baghdad. Because this man worked with support teams for U.S. Army intelligence and his family is still in Iraq, he is afraid to have his name published. His former American employers have sent let-

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

*Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).

drugs to address that need. They pay universities and scientists who do research. They fund the food and drug administrations that approve drugs. They pay media companies that report on drugs. And they pay doctors who prescribe drugs.

"The government's food and drug administration, operating under the deception of public advocacy, approves the drugs.

"The scientists, operating under the deception of unbiased research, publish their findings on the drugs.

"The news media, operating under the deception of unbiased reporting, present the findings as 'advancements.'

"The doctors, operating under the deception of health, prescribe the drugs.

"Sales increase. Stock prices soar, and people feed their greed exploiting others' need. But there's more. The trade commissions, operating under the deception of fair trade, regulate and block access to the sale of certain food items and treatments that would promote real health and end the deception.

"Schools, operating under the deception of education, promote the information created by the food industry in the earliest stages of childhood to indoctrinate a new generation of consumers who believe the lies...and on it goes..." [end of excerpt]

To learn more about the Seven Conversations of Agelessness, visit [www.agelessadept.com](http://www.agelessadept.com)

■■■■

*Latecomers Welcome:* The African American Cultural Preservation Committee is calling for entries for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay and Elocution Contest. The topic this year is "What Would Martin Say?" All students in the CNMI are invited. See the [www.blacksonsaipan.com](http://www.blacksonsaipan.com) website for details. Fliers are being distributed to the schools this week.

*Note:* For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!

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Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).*

By ANNA HUSARSKA

Special to The Washington Post



The writer is a senior policy adviser at the International Rescue Committee.

ters of support, Ragland told me, but have said nothing publicly. This man lives in an abyss, afraid to speak out and unable to make a life in either Iraq or the United States.

Such treatment, of course, provokes bitterness. When Kun Garbang, a Sudanese refugee who came to the United States with his wife and children in 2001, applied for a green card recently, he was told by the DHS: "Due to your being a current member and representative of (the Sudan People's Liberation Movement) you are inadmissible." Garbang went to a library in Sioux Falls, S.D., and wrote to the DHS, in almost perfect English, that before his two sons joined the Marines, they "asked my permission. This is what I told them:"

"Children, there was a time that all the world said no to you including your own country but the United States gave us a shelter. We have to defend this country and it is our responsibility."






One of Garbang's sons has served in Iraq for more than two years. "Terrorists," Garbang wrote, "do not send their children to fight for the United States."



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼75

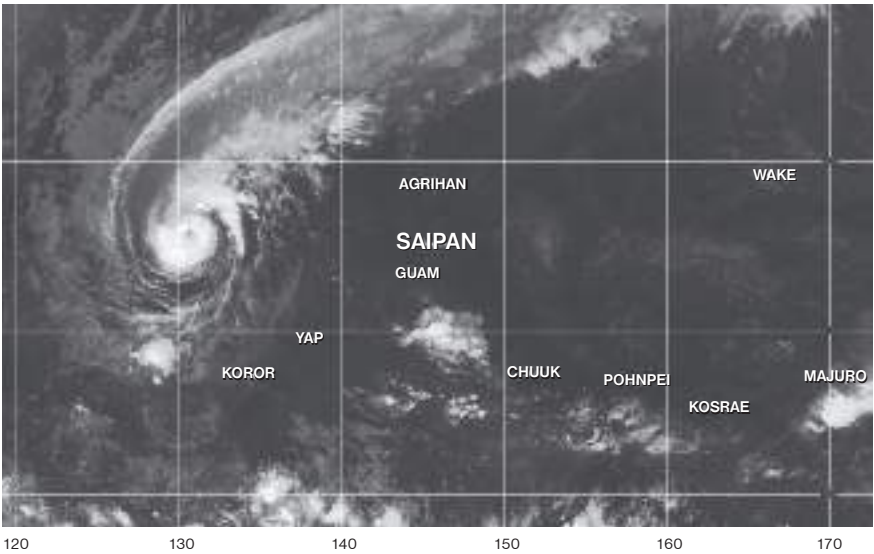
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲68 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲37 ▼16
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75 ▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲80 ▼70
London	Cloudy	▲45 ▼39
Los Angeles	Rain	▲54 ▼42
Manila	Cloudy	▲87 ▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼67
New York	Rain	▲43 ▼34
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲56 ▼42
Paris	Showers	▲44 ▼36
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼25
Rome	Rain	▲51 ▼41
Salem	Snow	▲39 ▼32
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼42
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲45 ▼27
Tokyo	Showers	▲55 ▼45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲46 ▼41

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:01AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
12:14AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:00PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:29PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DEC. 16, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Dolphin (27W) is centered near 16N131E or 670 miles north-northwest of Koror Palau and moving north-northeastward at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are within 150 miles of the typhoon center while scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are west of a line from 8N130E to 13N136E to 22N137E. For more detailed information, see NWS advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A cold front stretches southwestward from 25N150E to 23N147E then continues as a stationary front to end near 20N138E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are along this boundary and northwestward beyond 25N. A surface trough extends southward from 12N145E to 5N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are south of the Marianas in an area from 10N144E to 11N147E to 4N148E back to 10N144E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just south of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 170E to 7N175E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:37AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:37AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:38AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:38AM	5:52 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:36PM	10:34 AM
Thursday	11:30PM	11:15 AM
Friday		11:53 AM
Saturday	12:21AM	12:30 PM
Sunday	1:11AM	1:07 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan  
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Alleged Madoff fraud has worldwide exposure

In a Connecticut town, local officials scrambled to get a handle on damage to pension funds held for its police officers and firefighters. A Massachusetts charity announced it was shutting down. In New York, a distinguished economist feared he had lost his \$2.2 million nest egg.

Damage continued to ripple from the massive fraud allegedly engineered by storied Wall Street money manager Bernard Madoff on Monday, even as investigators worked to unravel the scheme's working and its reach.

While details remained sketchy, the sudden collapse of Madoff's firm began revealing an impact far beyond the world of the ultra-wealthy and well-connected who were the mainstay of his client base. And the



Paul H. Hiller Jr. chief fiscal officer of the Town of Fairfield Conn. poses for a photograph Monday Dec. 15, 2008 in Fairfield Conn. F

firm's extensive dealings with charitable foundations and other groups suggest the fraud may take a toll in unexpected places.

"It's devastating to people and communities and lives," said Deborah Coltin, executive director of the Robert I. Lappin Charitable Foundation, a Salem, Mass. organization that sponsors Jewish educational programs and is being forced to close its doors.

The 70-year-old Madoff (MAY-doff), well respected in the investment community after serving as chairman of the Nasdaq Stock Market, was arrested Thursday in what prosecutors say was a \$50 billion scheme to defraud investors. Some investors claim they've been wiped out, and it is thought many more are yet to come forward.

## Bush admin assures Detroit automakers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House gave troubled Detroit automakers public reassurances Monday that short-term government help was in the works as a key senator suggested the aid package could reach \$15 billion for two companies.

President George W. Bush said the bankruptcy of a domestic car company would undermine the nation's economy as it grapples with a financial meltdown. General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC have said they could run out of cash within weeks without support from the government.

"An abrupt bankruptcy for autos could be devastating for the economy," Bush told reporters aboard Air Force One during a surprise trip to Iraq and Afghanistan. "We're now in the process of working with the stakeholders on a way forward. We're not quite ready to announce that yet."

In Detroit, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he expects GM to get \$8 billion and Chrysler \$7 billion under the Bush administration's plan. He said the Treasury secretary likely would be tapped as a "car czar" to oversee restructuring of the companies.

Bush wouldn't give a pre-

cise timetable but said, "This will not be a long process because of the economic fragility of the autos."

Vice President Dick Cheney, in an interview with conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh, said the auto industry's woes came at an "especially bad time" because of the slowdown of the financial markets.

"We're on the downside of a recession that may be the worst since World War II. And if the automobile industry goes belly up now, there's a deep concern that that would be a major shock to the system," Cheney said.

## Fed ready to slash rates amid deepening recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—As unemployment rises painfully higher and nest eggs are shattered, the Federal Reserve is prepared slash a key interest rate—perhaps to an all-time low—in a desperate bid to stem the country's economic slide.

With the Fed's key rate dropping ever closer to zero, the central bank is moving into uncharted territory.

Nonetheless, Fed Chair-

man Ben Bernanke has made it clear the Fed isn't running out of ammunition to fight the worst financial crisis since the 1930s. It is exploring using tools—other than rate cuts—to revive the economy. New insights on that front could be revealed when Bernanke and his colleagues wrap up a two-day meeting Tuesday.

"The message is simply the Fed stands ready to do ev-

erything in its power to stop the economy's free fall," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

In its battle against a recession that started last December, the Fed already has cut the target for the federal funds rate, its main tool for influencing economic activity, to 1 percent, a level seen only once before in the last half-century.

## Toyota delays MS assembly plant

NEW YORK (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. is shelving its plans to build the popular Prius hybrid in Mississippi as the slump in the auto industry continues to hobble the Japanese carmaker known for its emphasis on fuel-sipping vehicles.

Toyota's plant under construction in Blue Springs, Miss., was scheduled to begin production in 2010, marking the first time the gas-electric Prius, which has been on sale for more than a decade, would be built outside of Japan and China.

But Mike Goss, a spokesman for Toyota's U.S. arm, said Monday that despite investing \$300 million in the plant so far, the automaker is delaying production there indefinitely because of the industrywide downturn.

Construction of the plant is about 90 percent complete, and Toyota will finish the building, Goss said. However, the installation of the factory's equipment and machinery—"the most time-consuming" element of construction, he said—is delayed indefinitely.

The roughly 100 people who have been hired to oversee

construction and install human resources plans at the plant will not lose their jobs and will be assigned other duties, Goss said.

"Those people's jobs are safe, and we'll find things for them to do," he said.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said at a news conference that the state has invested \$200 million in the plant, while local governments have invested about \$35 million. He said Toyota plans to work with state and local governments to mitigate extra costs caused by the delay.

"While we definitely are disappointed (and) wish it wasn't happening, we understand that these companies like Toyota have to operate in the private marketplace and have to do so successfully," Barbour said.

Although Toyota's U.S. sales have held up better than those of its Detroit-based counterparts, the entire industry has seen a steep plunge because consumers are skittish about making big purchases during the recession, and it has been more difficult and more expensive for some buyers to obtain financing in the tightened credit markets.

### ASIAN MARKETS

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 3,498.900 Down 36.800 (-1.04%)	<b>HONG KONG</b> 15,121.06 Up 74.11 (0.49%)	<b>JAKARTA</b> 1,340.439 Down 18.839 (-1.39%)
<b>TOKYO</b> 8,568.02 Down 96.64 (-1.12%)	<b>K. LUMPUR</b> 853.89 Up 7.42 (0.88%)	<b>MANILA</b> 1,889.32 Down 23.94 (-1.25%)
<b>SINGAPORE</b> 1,776.21 Up 1.45 (0.08%)	<b>SEOUL</b> 1,161.56 Up 3.37 (0.29%)	<b>BANGKOK</b> 444.52 Up 7.46 (1.71%)

### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
8,564.53  
-65.15

**NASDAQ**  
1,508.34  
-32.38

**S&P**  
868.57  
0.00

### MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4973
British Pound	0.6542
Canadian Dollar	1.2316
Chinese Renminbi	6.8474
Euro	0.7292
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501
Indian Rupee	47.7920
Indonesian Rupiah	11,127.5000
Japanese Yen	90.2250
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5570
New Zealand Dollar	1.7944
Philippine Peso	47.3700
Singapore Dollar	1.4750
South Korean Won	1,350.5000
Swiss Franc	1.1559
Taiwan Dollar	33.0360
Thailand Baht	34.8020

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Court allows lawsuits over 'light' cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Monday handed a surprising defeat to tobacco companies counting on it to put an end to lawsuits alleging deceptive marketing of "light" cigarettes. In a 5-4 split won by the court's liberals, it ruled that smokers may use state consumer protection laws to sue cigarette makers for the way they promote "light" and "low tar" brands. The decision was at odds with recent anti-consumer rulings that limited state regulation of business in favor of federal power. Altria Group Inc. argued on behalf of its Philip Morris USA subsidiary that the lawsuits are barred by

the federal cigarette labeling law, which forbids states from regulating any aspect of cigarette advertising that involves smoking and health. Justice John Paul Stevens, however, said in his majority opinion that the labeling law does not shield the companies from state laws against deceptive practices. The decision forces tobacco companies to defend dozens of suits filed by smokers in Maine, where the case originated, and across the country.

#### Exxon boosts diesel output as others scale back

HOUSTON (AP)—Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's biggest oil refiner, will spend more than \$1 billion in the next couple of years

to increase its global production of cleaner-burning diesel by about 10 percent, the company said Monday. The announcement comes as many oil producers and refiners scale back spending because of the sharp decline in crude prices, dismal expectations for energy demand in 2009 and tight credit markets that have put many big capital expenditures out of reach. When the upgrades are completed in 2010, Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil will account for about 8 percent of the world's diesel output, up about 1 percent from current levels, said Sherman Glass, the oil giant's president of refining and supply. Exxon Mobil, which had \$37 billion in cash at the end of the third quarter, will ex-

pand production at its refineries in Baton Rouge, La., Baytown, Texas, and Antwerp, Belgium. Baytown is the largest U.S. refinery. While acknowledging the global economic downturn and its significant impact on energy consumption, Glass said there is growing global demand for ultra-low-sulfur diesel, also known as ULSD.

#### Siemens agrees to pay \$1.3B in bribery settlement

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Siemens AG—rocked by a series of corruption cases that has cost the company both prestige and money—agreed Monday to pay more than \$1 billion in fines in Germany and

the U.S. as it moved a step forward in closing a dark chapter in its history. Munich-based Siemens agreed to pay more than \$800 million in fines to settle long-standing corruption charges in the United States and another 395 million euros (\$533.6 million) to European authorities. The announcements of the amounts of both fines came Monday. Siemens, which makes products ranging from wind turbines to trams, has been embroiled in a far-reaching corruption scandal and has acknowledged making dubious payments to secure business. An investigation commissioned by Siemens found evidence of violations across the company, and in several countries.



# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Letter to Santa leads to man's molestation arrest

**PHARR, Texas (AP)**—A Texas man has been arrested after a 9-year-old girl wrote to Santa Claus asking that a relative stop touching her and her sister. The Monitor of McAllen reports that a man from the town of Pharr was arrested Friday and is in the Hidalgo County jail. A criminal complaint says the girl turned the letter in at Cesar Chavez Elementary School. Authorities interviewed the girl after a school counselor reported the letter. The complaint says investigators believe the molestation occurred over a period of four years. The man is charged with continuous sexual abuse of a young child and could face as many as 99 years in prison if convicted.

### NYC cop indicted in body-check seen on YouTube

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A New York City police officer has been indicted after being caught on video knocking a bicyclist to the ground. Lawyer Stuart London says Patrick Pogan must report to the Manhattan prosecutor's office on Tuesday morning. Cyclist Christopher Long was arrested in July during a Critical Mass ride through Times Square. The monthly bike rides are meant to draw attention to alternatives to motor vehicles. Police said Long was obstructing traffic and deliberately steered his bicycle into an officer. Charges were dismissed. A video of the body-check that knocked Long over was posted on YouTube and has been viewed more than 1.6 million times. Pogan has been stripped of his badge and gun and been assigned to desk duty.

### Colo. teen pleads guilty in 'Mortal Kombat' death

**GREELEY, Colo. (AP)**—A Colorado man has pleaded guilty in connection with the death of his girlfriend's half-sister during an apparent imitation of the "Mortal Kombat" video game. The Weld County prosecutor's office says 18-year-old Lamar Roberts pleaded guilty Monday to knowingly causing a death through child abuse. Prosecutors say Roberts and 17-year-old Heather Trujillo were baby-sitting Zoe Garcia a year ago. They say they kicked, hit and slammed the girl to the floor. Trujillo pleaded guilty in May to negligently causing a death through child abuse. She must complete six years in Colorado's youth offender system. Sentencing for Roberts is set for January.

### Boy, 4, breaks into Texas store, plays with toys

**BEAUMONT, Texas (AP)**—Police called to a variety store by a burglar alarm overnight found a toddler inside, playing with the toys. Police said store surveillance video showed the unidentified boy trying to open one of the front doors to a Family Dollar store about 3 a.m. Monday, only to find it locked. But the second door was unlocked and the child went inside. That triggered the silent alarm. Detective Randy Stevens said the child apparently unlocked a door at his nearby home, got out, then crossed a multilane street to reach the store. A canvass of the neighborhood turned up a family member searching for the child. CPS spokeswoman Shari Pulliam said Child Protective Services claimed oversight of a 4-year-old boy during a review of the incident. The boy will be allowed to stay with other relatives, not the parents, during the CPS review period.

## Obama: Probe shows no contact in Ill. gov scandal

**CHICAGO (AP)**—President-elect Barack Obama said Monday a review by his own lawyer shows he had no direct contact with Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich about the appointment of a Senate replacement, and transition aides did nothing inappropriate.

Obama pledged to make the review public, but said he decided to hold off because prosecutors asked for a delay and "I don't want to interfere with an ongoing investigation." U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald released a statement confirming the request.

Controversy has swirled around the president-elect and his incoming White House chief of staff, Rep. Rahm Emanuel, following Blagojevich's arrest last week on charges he schemed to trade Obama's Senate seat for personal gain.

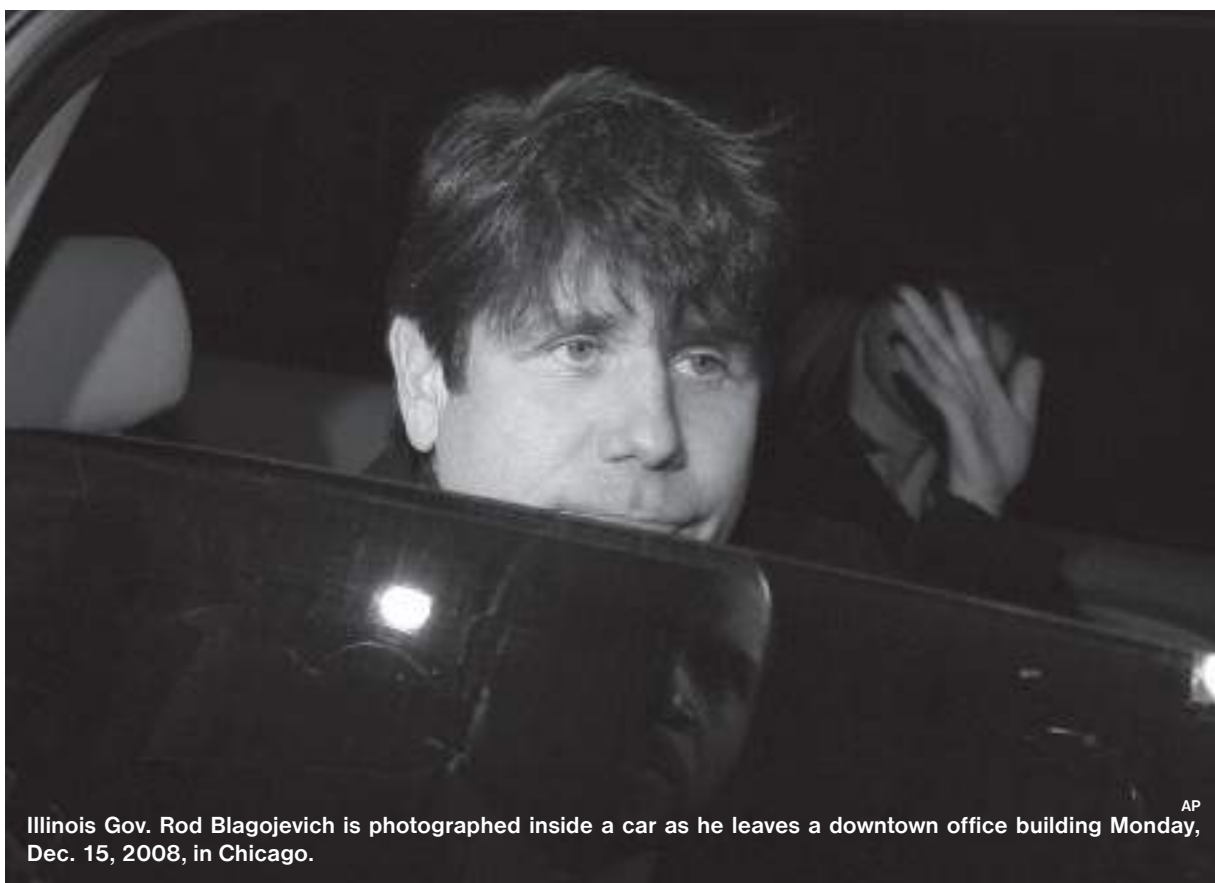
Obama, fielding questions at a news conference, sidestepped when asked whether Emanuel had spoken with aides to the governor about potential Senate appointees.

Emanuel was one of several aides who watched the news conference from the wings.

The president-elect pledged the results of the investigation by his incoming White House counsel, Gregory Craig, would be released "in due course."

He said the probe was complete and thorough, but did not say which of his aides Craig interviewed, whether any of them was under oath at the time, or any other details.

In personally disclosing the results of the investigation he ordered, Obama said, "As I said in a press conference last week, I had no contact with the gover-



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is photographed inside a car as he leaves a downtown office building Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, in Chicago. AP

nor's office and I had no contact with anybody in the governor's office. What I indicated last week was there was nothing that my office did that was in any way inappropriate or related to the charges that have been brought."

Blagojevich has authority under Illinois state law to name a Senate replacement for Obama, who resigned his seat as he prepares to become president. Senate Democrats have warned the governor not to use his power, hinting

they may refuse to allow his selection to take the oath of office.

There also has been talk of the legislature passing a law that would strip the governor of the power to name a replacement, and call for a special election instead.

Separately, Blagojevich has come under heavy pressure to resign, from Obama as well as Democrats nationally and in Illinois. Earlier in the day, the Legislature took the first step toward possible impeachment.

## NY governor: Caroline Kennedy wants Senate seat

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)**—Caroline Kennedy told New York's governor on Monday that she's interested in the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Hillary Rodham Clinton, making her the highest-profile candidate to express a desire for the job. Democratic Gov. David Paterson will choose the replacement. "She told me she was interested in the position," Paterson said. "It's not a campaign. She'd like at some point to sit down."

Caroline Kennedy's spokesman, Stefan Friedman, declined to comment.

Clinton is expected to be confirmed as President-elect Barack Obama's secretary of state.

At an afternoon news conference to discuss last week's paralyzing ice storm, New York's senior senator, Charles Schumer, said he has also talked to Caroline Kennedy about the job.

"And she's clearly interested," he said.

Kennedy is the daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy. Her uncle, the late Robert F. Kennedy, once held the Senate seat she wants. Paterson has sole authority to name a replacement for Clinton, who was first elected in 2000 and re-elected by a wide margin in 2006.

Over the past week, Kennedy, who lives in Manhattan, has reached out to several prominent New York Democrats to tell them of her interest in the Senate seat. They included Joel Klein, chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. Kennedy worked closely with Klein as executive of the Office of Strategic Partnerships for the New York City Department of Education, where she raised about \$65 million for the city's schools.



In this March 7, 2005, file photo, Caroline Kennedy, sits in front of an image of her late father President John F. Kennedy at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. AP

## Calif. storm collapses school roof, snarls travel

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—California took a pounding Monday from a powerful storm that collapsed the roof of a trade school, made roads treacherous and forced residents from homes out of fear of mudslides from fire-stripped hillsides.

Interstate 15, the main route connecting Southern California and Las Vegas, was closed by heavy snow in a mountain pass east of Los Angeles.

Interstate 5 north of Los Angeles was snarled by snow that forced the California Highway Patrol to shepherd motorists over another pass.

About 20,000 customers lost power across the state, utilities reported.

At its height Monday, the storm triggered hundreds of fender-bender traffic accidents on freeways, highways and surface streets across Cali-

fornia, Washington and Nevada.

In Anaheim, students and teachers fled a trade school when the roof of a classroom collapsed during heavy rain Monday. Twelve students and two staff members were hospitalized with mostly minor injuries, and all but one were released by afternoon, said Lynn Porter, assistant superintendent of educational services.

## Ill. lawmakers take first step to oust Blagojevich

**SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP)**—Illinois lawmakers took the first step Monday toward removing Gov. Rod Blagojevich from office as the disgraced Democrat conferred with a bulldog defense attorney known for taking cases to trial.

House Speaker Michael Madigan appointed a bipartisan committee to review potential impeachment proceedings, the latest move by embarrassed politicians eager to force out Blagojevich and fill the Senate seat vacated by President-elect Barack Obama.

"We're going to proceed with all due speed, but we're going to make sure that what we do is done correctly," said Madigan, a Chicago Democrat and former co-chairman of Blagojevich's re-election campaign who has become one of the governor's fiercest critics.

"I've had a chance to get to know Mr. Blagojevich over six years, so I was not surprised," Madigan said of the corruption charges that allege the governor tried to put Obama's seat up for auction. "In light of what we've all seen ... how can anyone be surprised?"

Obama's team said an internal review showed that Obama's staff "was not involved in inappropriate discussions" with Blagojevich over the Senate seat. An Obama spokesman said details of the review would not be released until at least Dec. 22 at the request of prosecutors.

Also Monday, a Blagojevich spokesman said the governor has not ruled out signing a bill to hold a special election to fill the seat. That was the first hint the embattled governor may loosen his grip on the position.



# Asia

## Bush's Iraq-Afghan farewell tour marred by dissent

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—President George W. Bush wrapped up a whirlwind trip to two war zones Monday that in many ways was a victory lap without a clear victory. A signature event occurred when an Iraqi reporter hurled two shoes at Bush, an incident the president called “a bizarre moment.”

Bush visited the Iraqi capital just 37 days before he hands the war off to his successor, Barack Obama, who has pledged to end it. The president wanted to highlight a drop in violence and to celebrate a recent U.S.-Iraq security agreement, which calls for U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

“The war is not over,” Bush said, but “it is decisively on its way to being won.”

Bush then traveled to Afghanistan where he spoke to U.S. soldiers and Marines at a hangar on the tarmac at Bagram Air Base. The rally for over a thousand military personnel took place in the dark, cold pre-dawn hours. Bush was greeted by loud cheers from the troops.

“Afghanistan is a dramatically different country than it was eight years ago,” he said. “We are making hopeful gains.”

But the president's message on prog-



President George W. Bush, right, hugs Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the Presidential Palace on Monday, Dec. 15, 2008 in Kabul, Afghanistan. AP

ress in the region was having trouble competing with the videotaped image of the angry Iraqi who hurled his shoes at Bush in a near-miss, shouting in Arabic, “This is your farewell kiss, you dog!” The reporter was later identified as Muntadar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for Al-Baghdadia television, an Iraqi-owned station based in Cairo, Egypt.

In Iraqi culture, throwing shoes at someone is a sign of contempt. Iraqis whacked a statue of Saddam with their shoes after U.S. Marines toppled it to the ground following the 2003 invasion.

Bush told reporters later that he didn't think “you can take one guy throwing shoes and say this represents a broad movement in Iraq. You can try to do that if you want but I don't think that would be accurate.”

Reaction in Iraq was swift but mixed, with some condemning the act and others applauding it. Television news stations throughout Iraq repeatedly showed footage of the incident, and newspapers carried headline stories.

In Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City, supporters of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called for protests against Bush and demanded the release of the reporter. Thousands took to the streets Monday, chanting, “Bush, Bush, listen well: Two shoes on your head.”

### Indian defense chief: no plans for military action

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—India said Tuesday it was not planning military action against Pakistan in response to the deadly Mumbai attacks but warned that its relationship with its rival would not be “normal” until Islamabad takes action against militants.

Indian authorities have blamed the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the three-day siege that left 164 dead in Mumbai last month.

Pakistan has arrested a senior Lashkar leader who was the suspected mastermind of the attacks and shuttered the offices of a charity linked to Lashkar. Authorities there say they will prosecute anyone allegedly involved in the attacks in their own courts.

But Indian leaders have said the moves are not sufficient and have called on Pakistan to do more to dismantle the terror network they claim is well-established in that country.

Defense Minister A.K. Antony said India was “not planning any military action” against Pakistan but urged Islamabad to crack down on militants thought to be based within its borders.

“Unless Pakistan takes actions against those terrorists who are operating on their soil against India ... things will not be normal,” Antony told reporters Tuesday.

In the weeks since the Nov. 26 attacks, tensions have been high between India and Pakistan, but India's prime minister, along with other senior leaders, have said they are not preparing for war.

The attacks killed 26 foreigners, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown have visited New Delhi and Islamabad to cool tensions in the region, and to press Pakistan to cooperate in the investigation.

## Pakistan: US missile strike suspected in 2 deaths

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)**—A suspected U.S. missile strike killed two people in Pakistan near the Afghan border, officials and a witness said Tuesday, as two prominent U.S. senators visited Islamabad amid flaring tensions over the Mumbai attacks in India.

The Monday night strike in Tabi Tolkhel village in the North Waziristan tribal region appeared to be the latest in a surge of alleged U.S. missile attacks on militant targets in Pakistan's northwest, a border region long bedeviled by al-Qaida and Taliban extremists.

It also was the latest example of how militancy and the fight against it is engulfing this nuclear-armed Muslim nation from all sides.

India blames a Pakistan-based militant group for the attacks in Mumbai that killed more than 160 people, and the U.S. has joined in the international chorus demanding that Pakistan crack down on violent extremists in its territory. The missile strikes have long indicated U.S. impatience with Pakistani efforts.

U.S. Sen. John Kerry, the next Foreign Relations Committee chairman, was in Pakistan on Tuesday, the latest in a string of U.S. officials to visit India and Pakistan since the attacks in India's commercial capital last month.

Like Kerry, Sen. Christopher “Kit” Bond also arrived in

Islamabad on Monday for meetings with top Pakistanis, U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor said. He declined to give more details.

More than 30 alleged U.S. missile strikes have been reported since August in Pakistan's northwest. The latest suspected U.S. strike set a house on fire, said Ajab Khan, a village resident who went to the scene.

He said he saw two bodies brought out, and that three wounded people were taken away in a vehicle. Suspected Taliban militants surrounded the house afterward, Khan said—a common occurrence after such strikes.

Three local intelligence officials confirmed the account, citing informants. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

Pakistan routinely protests the strikes as violations of its sovereignty, saying they inflame anti-American sentiment. U.S. officials rarely acknowledge or comment on the individual missile strikes, many of which are said to originate from CIA-run unmanned drones.

However, American leaders have previously said the strikes have helped kill some important militant leaders who use Pakistani territory as safe havens from which to plot attacks on U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

## New Thai PM faces deep divisions, poor economy

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)**—Thailand's new prime minister faces the difficult task of unifying a country torn apart by months of violent anti-government protests—demonstrations that battered the key tourism industry just as the global economy was slipping into its worst crisis in decades.

The selection on Monday of Abhisit Vejjajiva—the 44-year-old, Oxford-educated opposition leader—marks the first time in eight years that a civilian government will be led by an opponent of exiled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has loomed over Thai politics since he was ousted by a military coup in 2006.

Abhisit began Tuesday to put together his Cabinet, which will struggle to heal the rift between the middle class that is his base and the rural poor

who backed Thaksin—and manage an economy buffeted by Thailand's political turmoil and a global slowdown.

“It will be more difficult for the Democrats to achieve fast results in tackling the economic problems now than in 1997,” when most of Asia sunk economic recession, said Ekamol Khiriwat, former head of Thailand's stock exchange. “Now everything is kind of slowing down.”

Abhisit, who has a strong economic background, is expected to unveil a solid economic team when the cabinet positions are announced, probably on Friday.

Abhisit must still be officially endorsed as prime minister by the constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej—likely within several days.

His appointment is expected to

bring at least a brief period of calm, although the move unleashed new protests by supporters of the previous government. Abhisit's image as an upper-class elitist also could hinder his attempts to end the turmoil.

In Monday's vote in the lower house of parliament, Abhisit received support from 235 lawmakers, compared with 198 for a pro-Thaksin former national police chief.

As lawmakers arrived for the vote, Thaksin supporters tried to block the gates of parliament in a last-ditch attempt to prevent the outcome. Riot police later cleared a path for lawmakers to leave the compound. The demonstrators hurled rocks at vehicles and abuse at lawmakers inside but most dispersed peacefully.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Lye, boric acid banned as food additives in China

**BEIJING (AP)**—Substances commonly used as industrial dyes, insecticides and drain cleaners were included on a list of illegal food additives China released Monday as part of a monthslong government crackdown aimed at improving the country's shoddy food safety record. Among the 17 banned substances was boric acid, commonly used as an insecticide, which is mixed with noodles and meatballs to increase elasticity, a statement posted on the Ministry of Health Web site said. Also forbidden was industrial formaldehyde and lye, used in making soap and drain cleaner and added to water used to soak some types of dried seafood to make the products appear fresher and bigger. A scandal over melamine-tainted infant formula, which likely killed six babies and sickened 294,000 others earlier this year, prompted the government food safety campaign last week. The list of banned substances was released by a government committee tasked with weeding out the practice of augmenting food products with nonfood additives. Local authorities were also warned to watch out for another 10 food additives that are often used excessively.

#### Philippine rescuers search for 29 ferry passengers

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Rescue teams battling strong waves and winds Tuesday pulled four more bodies—all children—from seas in the northeastern Philippines where a ferry capsized, drowning 27, officials said. Twenty-nine passengers were still missing from the overcrowded, wooden-hulled Maejan after it overturned following an eight-hour journey Sunday, police Chief Superintendent Roberto Damian said. Most of the 46 survivors swam or clung to driftwood and other objects until they reached shore in Aparri town in Cagayan province, about half a mile (kilometer) from the site of the accident, police said. The ferry, loaded with more than 100 people along with a cargo of pigs, cows and water buffaloes, was traveling from Calayan islands in the Luzon Strait when it encountered huge waves and currents that broke its bamboo outrigger, causing it to flip over.

#### US auto woes mean trouble for Japanese makers, too

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's automakers aren't celebrating the troubles of their U.S. rivals, believing that what's bad for the industry in America is bad for carmakers in Japan, too. In recent years, the Japanese have expanded in the U.S., making the world's biggest auto market a cornerstone of their growth strategy. By growing more American, however, they have become such a part of the U.S. industrial landscape that the collapse of any of Detroit's Big Three would be a blow to the Japanese manufacturers. “The damage to our business is certain to be tremendous,” Toyota Motor Corp. spokesman Hideaki Homma told The Associated Press on Monday. “The conditions for the U.S. auto market are extremely tough right now, and any additional negative is sure to make things worse.” One reason is that Japanese carmakers in the U.S. share many of the same parts suppliers with General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC. If a Detroit automaker were to collapse, suppliers would likely follow in a damaging chain reaction.



## World

## Family: Shoe thrower hates both US, Iran role

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—The Iraqi TV reporter who hurled his shoes at George W. Bush was kidnapped once by militants and, separately, detained briefly by the U.S. military. Over time, Muntadhar al-Zeidi, a 28-year-old unmarried Shiite, came to hate both the U.S. military occupation and Iran's interference in Iraq, his family told The Associated Press on Monday.

Al-Zeidi's act of defiance Sunday transformed an obscure reporter from a minor TV station into a national hero to many Iraqis fed up with the nearly six-year U.S. presence here, but also fearful that their country will fall under Iran's influence once the Americans leave.

Several thousand people demonstrated in Baghdad and other cities to demand al-Zeidi's release. The attack was the talk of the town in coffee shops, business offices and even schools—and a subject across much of the Arab world. A charity run by the daughter of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi bestowed a medal of courage on al-Zeidi, calling on the Iraqi government to free him.

Al-Zeidi was held Monday in Iraqi custody for investigation and could face charges of insulting a foreign leader and the Iraqi prime minister, who was



A man beats with a shoe a mock poster of US President George W. Bush with a "War criminal" written in Arabic during a protest in Najaf, Iraq, Monday, Dec. 15, 2008.

standing next to Bush. Conviction carries a sentence of up to two years in prison or a small fine—although it's unlikely he would face the maximum penalty given his newfound cult status in the Arab world.

Bush was not hit or injured in the attack, and Iraqi security guards wrestled al-Zeidi to the ground immediately after he tossed his shoes. White House

press secretary Dana Perino suffered an eye injury when she was hit in the face with a microphone during the melee.

Arab satellite TV networks repeatedly broadcast images of Bush ducking the shoes at the Baghdad press conference. The sight of an average Arab standing up and making a public show of resentment was striking—especially against a leader

widely blamed for a litany of crimes including the turmoil in Iraq, where tens of thousands of civilians have died in the war.

A geography teacher at a Baghdad elementary school asked her students if they had seen the footage of the shoe-throwing. "All Iraqis should be proud of this Iraqi brave man, Muntadhar. History will remember him forever," she said.

## Across Mideast, Arabs hail the shoe-hurling journalist

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Iraqis and other Arabs erupted in glee Monday at the shoe attack on George W. Bush. Far from a joke, many in the Mideast saw the act by an Iraqi journalist as heroic, expressing the deep, personal contempt many feel for the American leader they blame for years of bloodshed, chaos and the suffering of civilians.

Images of Bush ducking the fast-flying shoes at a Baghdad press conference, aired repeatedly on Arab satellite TV networks, were cathartic for many in the Middle East, who have for years felt their own leaders kowtow to the American president.

So the sight of an average Arab standing up and making a public show of resent-

ment was stunning. The pride, joy and bitterness it uncorked showed how many Arabs place their anger on Bush personally for what they see as a litany of crimes—chief among them the turmoil in Iraq and tens of thousands of Iraqi deaths since the 2003 U.S. invasion.

The reaction explains in part the relief among Arabs over Barack Obama's election victory, seen as a repudiation of the Bush era. But it also highlights the task the next president will face in repairing America's image in the Mideast, where distrust of the U.S. has hampered a range of American policies, from containing Iran to pushing the peace process and democratic reform.

## 4-year-old Venecia helped by food aid in Haiti

**BAIE D'ORANGE, Haiti (AP)**—It was late afternoon and the young mother was hiding in the kitchen of her banana-thatch shack, lighting a cooking fire she hoped her neighbors would not see—she gets food aid while they must scrounge to eat.

Her 4-year-old daughter—whose sunken eyes drew worldwide attention in an Associated Press photograph that showed her dangling limply from the strap of a scale—grinned in anticipation.

It's been a month since little Venecia Louis got emergency treatment for malnutrition, and now she is walking, playing and even has a pinch of baby fat on her cheeks.

Venecia was among dozens of children suffering from severe malnutrition who were airlifted from this remote region in Haiti's southeast to hospitals in Port-au-Prince after 26 children died from starvation here.



At right, Venecia Louis, 4, who suffers from severe malnutrition is weighed at the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Port-au-Prince, Nov. 19, 2008.

As a result, Venecia and her family now get just enough food aid to scrape by.

Venecia smiled last week as her mother, Rosemen Saint-Juste, prepared a can and a half

of rice that would be dinner for six people. She has gained some weight and her arms are plumper after treatment with antibiotics, anti-worm medications and enriched milk. But

she is by no means cured from her life-threatening bout with malnutrition.

The child's 30-year-old mother hoards what she can to protect her children's health but says she must give away some to the hungry families who live nearby or risk their revenge—by physical attack or the Voodoo spell she believes they might cast to kill her children.

"The food I have is going to last for three days" instead of four, she said after giving away some of her rice. "If I don't share it with my neighbors, the devil will eat my kids."

Four tropical storms that killed 793 people in August and September and caused \$1 billion in damage made Haiti's ongoing food crisis even worse. Crops were wiped out and mountain roads destroyed, cutting farmers off from markets where they sell their crops and buy food for their children.

## Greek protesters find stronghold in campus haven

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—Inside the gates of Athens' main university, bonfires rage and masked gangs stockpile petrol bombs, broken paving stones and marble hacked from the neoclassical buildings. It's their arsenal for more possible clashes with weary police.

But a week into Greece's worst civil unrest in decades—sparked by the police shooting

of a teenage boy and then fed by anger at the country's economic unraveling—the rioters' best weapon is arguably the law.

They have used, some say abused, a decades-old code that bars police from university campuses. The grounds of the Athens Polytechnic have become a combination of sanctuary and makeshift armory for the bands of young

men and women who have left parts of the capital ransacked and smoldering.

The self-proclaimed anarchists and revolutionaries based at the Polytechnic have become outnumbered on the streets by more typical demonstrators—such as labor unions and opposition parties—who have called for Greece's increasingly unpopular conser-

vative government to resign.

Yet it's the rage and destruction of the masked youths that have become the symbols of the showdown.

Nearly every night in the past week, the streets around the Polytechnic become an urban battleground. Riot police emerge through clouds of tear gas and the smoke of flaming barricades.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Russian navy: Russian warships to visit Cuba

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Russian warships will visit U.S. foe Cuba for the first time since the Soviet era, the navy said Monday. The destroyer Admiral Chabanenko and two support ships from a squadron that has been on a lengthy visit to Latin America will put in at Havana on Friday for a five-day stay, navy spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo said. It will be the first visit by Russian warships to the Communist-led island just 90 miles (145 kilometers) from the United States since the 1991 Soviet collapse, Dygalo said. The Admiral Chabanenko, the nuclear-powered cruiser Peter the Great and support ships arrived in the Caribbean last month in a deployment also unprecedented since Soviet times. The voyage is widely seen as a show of force close to U.S. shores and a response to the U.S. use of warships to deliver humanitarian aid to Russia's neighbor Georgia after their war in August.

## US anti-kidnapping expert kidnapped in Mexico

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—A U.S. anti-kidnapping expert was abducted by gunmen in northern Mexico last week, a sign of just how bold this nation's kidnapping gangs have become. U.S. security consultant Felix Batista—who claims to have helped resolve nearly 100 kidnap and ransom cases—was in Saltillo in Coahuila state to offer advice on how to confront abductions for ransom when he himself was seized, local authorities said. Unknown

assailants grabbed him on Dec. 10, said Charlie LeBlanc, the president of the Houston, Texas-based security firm ASI Global LLC., where Batista is a consultant. "We have notified the FBI and Mexican authorities, and they are working on the case," LeBlanc said Monday. "What we are doing is we're offering our support to the family and hoping for the best." The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City said it would not comment on the case, and LeBlanc declined to say whether a ransom demand had been received.

## Combo treatment for prostate cancer cuts deaths

**LONDON (AP)**—Treating advanced prostate cancer with radiation and hormone-blocking drugs cut the death rate in half in a study of Scandinavian men, researchers report. In the United States, the combination has been standard care since the 1990s. But in Europe, many doctors have avoided the combo treatment and used hormone drugs alone, thinking the pair would be too harsh for most patients. "What this study shows is that men with prostate cancer do benefit from more aggressive therapy," said Dr. Howard Sandler, of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and a spokesman for the American Society of Clinical Oncology. The Scandinavian researchers tracked 875 men with advanced prostate cancer in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. About half were given hormone-blocking drugs while the other half got the same treatment plus radiation. The drugs block production of testosterone, which feeds cancer cells.



# Campus Life

## MATH COURT WINNERS

The following are the Grace Christian Academy's top performers during the Math Court competition held on Dec. 13, 2008, at Koblerville Elementary School and Saipan Southern High School:

### KINDER

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga — 1st place Algebra  
— 5th place Numbers

### FIRST GRADE

Arvin Dayao — 1st place Algebra  
Matt Jason Moran — 1st place Algebra  
— 2nd Numbers  
Jim Michael Ham — 2nd place Algebra  
Tae Yong Kim — 2nd place Algebra  
— 2nd place Numbers  
Caryl Andrei Batenga — 2nd place Algebra  
— 3rd place Numbers  
Clark Birmingham — 2nd place Algebra  
Robert Hanrey Schorr — 2nd place Algebra  
— 3rd place Numbers

### SECOND GRADE

Joshua Abragan — 1st place Algebra  
Marcelo Masilungan — 1st place Numbers  
Jasmine Phan — 1st place Algebra  
Claudilyn Lacbayo — 2nd place Numbers  
— 2nd place Algebra  
Jolina Villanueva — 3rd place Numbers  
Alan Hinson — 3rd place Numbers  
— 4th place Algebra

### THIRD GRADE

Peter Luis Camacho — 1st place Numbers  
— 1st place Algebra  
Francheska Dalusung — 2nd place Algebra  
— 2nd place Numbers

### FOURTH GRADE

FJ Dalusung — 2nd place Algebra  
Kyle Chua — 2nd place Algebra  
Abigail Deang — 2nd place Numbers  
Kenichi Shirata — 3rd place Numbers

### FIFTH GRADE

Neil Conti — 2nd place Numbers  
Sang Hyeon Kim — 2nd place Algebra  
— 3rd place Numbers  
Samuel Seo — 2nd place Numbers  
Yeram Na — 3rd place Algebra

### SIXTH GRADE

San Ji — 3rd place Numbers  
Katrina Punzalan — 3rd place Numbers

### SEVENTH GRADE

Yeong Jeong Kim — 1st place Algebra  
— 2nd place Numbers  
Katrina Cruz — 1st place Algebra

### TENTH GRADE

Hailie Kim — 1st place Algebra 2  
— 3rd place Algebra 1  
Peter Cho — 3rd place Algebra 1  
— 5th place Numbers

### ELEVENTH GRADE

Laura Kim — 2nd place Algebra 1  
— 3rd place Algebra 2  
Johanna Cabrera — 4th place Algebra 1

### TWELFTH GRADE

Keith Sablan — 1st place Algebra 2  
— 2nd Algebra 1

Coach and coordinator: Ms. Susan Pajarillaga

# Scores on science test causing concern in US

By MARIA GLOD  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—U.S. students are doing no better on an international science exam than they were in the mid-1990s, a performance plateau that leaves educators and policymakers worried about how schools are preparing students to compete in an increasingly global economy.

Results of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), released this week, show how fourth- and eighth-graders in the United States measure up to peers around the world. U.S. students showed gains in math in both grades. But average science performance, although still stronger than in many countries, has stagnated since 1995.

Students in Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong outperformed U.S. fourth-graders in science. The U.S. students had an average score of 539 on a 1,000-point scale, higher than their peers in 25 countries.

In eighth grade, Singapore topped the list, with an average score of 567. Students in Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, England, Hungary and Russia were among those earning higher marks than their U.S. counterparts. The average score in the United States was 520.

"We need to pay attention to the results. We're just static, and other

countries are improving," said Francis Eberle, executive director of the Arlington County, Va.-based National Science Teachers Association. "Whether it's global warming, energy production or conservation or homeland security, people need to be able to understand enough to make decisions as a citizen."

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to make math and science education a national priority. He said the federal government would work with states to improve science education, beginning in preschool, and he plans to establish a teaching scholarship program to recruit graduates with backgrounds in math and science.

The TIMSS tests, administered every four years since 1995, were taken last year by a sampling of students in the United States and more than 50 other countries. In the United States, more than 20,000 students in nearly 500 public and private schools participated.

U.S. students made notable strides in math. Since 1995, the average score among fourth-graders has jumped 11 points, to 529. But students in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, Russia and England were among those with a higher average. Hong Kong topped the list with an average score of 607.

Eighth-graders also had a higher average score than in 1995 and bested counterparts in 37 countries. But they lagged behind peers in Taiwan, South

Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, among other places.

Some educators and officials attribute the gains to a renewed focus on math education in recent years. The 2002 federal No Child Left Behind law requires schools to administer annual math tests, with the goal of steadily improving performance.

The benefits of tough standards and a focus on foundational skills were reflected in test score gains in Minnesota, according to William Schmidt, a Michigan State University professor who worked with Minnesota education officials.

In 1995, before the state implemented math standards based on international benchmarks, Minnesota fourth-graders trailed peers across the country. But in the 2007 TIMSS testing, Minnesota outpaced the nation and trailed only Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. "It says, 'America you can do it, and the way to do it is to have coherent, focused and rigorous standards,'" Schmidt said.

U.S. students are doing no better on an international science exam than they were in the mid-1990s, a performance plateau that leaves educators and policymakers worried about how schools are preparing students to compete in an increasingly global economy.

THE WASHINGTON POST

## TIMSS Rankings

Top performers in eight-grade math and science tests.

TIMSS scale average score=500

Science	500
Singapore	567
Taiwan	561
Japan	554
South Korea	553
England	542
Hungary	539
Czech Republic	539
Slovenia	538
Hong Kong	530
Russia	530
United States	520

Math	500
Taiwan	598
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SOURCE: Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

BY TOBEY — THE WASHINGTON POST

# Shrinking family resources compromise college plans

By LARRY GORDON AND SEEMA MEHTA  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Since Laura Monte was a child, her parents had assured her that if she did well in high school, the family would find a way to pay for college. Now, things are not so certain.

The Southern California family had socked away money in stock funds that grew to \$45,000. Scott and Pam Monte figured that the investments, coupled with their dual income, would pay for four years of college. Then the stock market crashed, and the college fund dropped by half.

That led to difficult family discussions and a change in Laura's application plans, replacing costly East Coast private colleges with more California public universities. "It's really stressful," said Laura, a senior at Tesoro High School in Orange County's Rancho Santa Margarita.

"It's hard to talk about money with your parents, when your parents come to you and tell you they might not be able to pay for your education."

As they face looming college application deadlines in a soured economy, many families are grappling with how personal resources and financial aid could affect decisions on college. The economic downturn, with parents' job losses and investment declines, is adding an extra layer of anxiety to what can be a stressful chapter of family life even in a booming economy.

"It is the most uncertain college admission year we have had in a very long time," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Scott and Pam Monte planned to send their daughter Laura, center, to a private East Coast school. Then the stock market crash cut her college fund in half, changing their focus to state universities and financial-aid applications.

on Education, a higher-education group based in Washington, D.C. "I think it's a very worried and troublesome time."

Because many deadlines for private college applications are in mid-January, it is too early to say exactly how the financial climate will affect where students apply and ultimately enroll. But guidance counselors and education experts expect the average student to seek insurance, of sorts, by applying to more schools than usual and having more public schools in the mix.

In addition, as public colleges face state budget cuts and private schools watch their endowments shrink, families are paying much closer attention to financial aid.

Hartle and other officials said they didn't expect many students to forgo college or not to apply to private campuses. Yet, when the crunch time comes in April and May, families will weigh acceptances, financial aid and their own resources with more than the usual scrutiny, they said.

"I think the term 'hedging your bets' will define the admission cycle this year," said David Hawkins, director of public policy for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

At Bellarmine College Preparatory, a Jesuit high school in San Jose, Calif., college counseling director Katy Murphy said this year's application process felt very different from last year's. Parents are more nervous and seniors more uncertain.

As a result, she said, Bellarmine students are applying to more colleges overall, 10 or 11 on average, up from about nine last year—and to more public schools, including the University of California, California State University and out-of-state colleges.

For some families, like the Montes, the stock market decline shook long-held plans. Laura, who wants to major in broadcast journalism, dropped the idea of applying to Boston and Syracuse universities and other East Coast schools. Her first choice now is San Diego State University, Scott's alma mater; her second is the University of California, Santa Cruz. She added applications to California State University campuses, too.

Financial aid "would have been an afterthought in the past. Now, of course, it's very front and center," said Scott Monte, who is a senior vice president of marketing for a mobile technology company.

For others, such as the Chironis family, also of Orange County, the decline in housing prices and access to home equity credit lines wrecked one way to finance tuition.



# Life & Style

Changes are coming to "American Idol" when it returns in January, including a return to "wild card" finalists picked by the show's judges and less airtime for memorably bad auditions. But don't expect the show to abandon its affection for untalented contestants, executive producer Ken Warwick said Monday.

Failing to include them would mean, "I would have a pretty boring show on my hands and it wouldn't be honest," Warwick told a telephone news conference. The majority of those who tried out in Puerto Rico, for example, weren't very good, he said.

Fox's hit talent contest will open its eighth season with a two-night, four-hour premiere on Jan. 13-14 from 8-10 p.m. EST, the network said.

"American Idol" will cut the number of weeks featuring nationwide tryouts from four weeks to three and will bring more contestants to Hollywood to compete—36 men and women compared to the two dozen of past seasons, Fox said.

The group will be winnowed down to 12 finalists, with nine chosen by audience voting and three wild-card singers selected by judges Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and a previously announced newcomer, singer-songwriter Kara DioGuardi.

"If something goes horrendously awry, the judges could fix it on the wild card show," Warwick said. The show featured the approach previously.

The changes aren't in response to a ratings dip of 7 percent last season, Warwick said, adding it was less than that posted by TV overall and was to be expected for a veteran series.

"There were no panic changes.... This show wouldn't be on the TV for eight years if it wasn't doing it right," he said. A further drop could occur this year given that broadcast ratings generally have slipped.

The show's charity effort, "Idol Gives Back," will be absent this season, as reported last week by The Associated Press and others. It likely will return on an every-other-year basis, Warwick said. He cited both the added production demands the charity special creates and the current economic climate.

Warwick was asked about recent criticism from Abdul that the show exposed her to peril by allowing an alleged stalker, Paula Goodspeed, to audition in a previous season. Goodspeed was found dead of apparent suicide in a car near Abdul's Los Angeles home last month.

## 'American Idol' tweaks hit format for 8th season



In this image released by Disney, "American Idol" winner David Cook poses with a reindeer-inspired Pluto at the Magic Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., while taping a segment of the "Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade," Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, to be aired nationwide on Christmas Day on ABC.

AP

"I would definitely not put a dangerous person or person I thought was remotely dangerous in front of the judges," he said. Other than giving "everybody a psych test before they walk

in," Warwick said, the show does the best it can to screen contestants.

He dismissed rumors that Abdul's future with the show was cloudy, saying, "There's never been any dis-

cussion that we would want to get rid of Paula."

Last year's winner was David Cook, chosen by viewers over runner-up David Archuleta. (AP)

## More layoffs in publishing: This time at Macmillan

NEW YORK (AP)—Another book publisher is cutting jobs: Macmillan, where authors include Thomas Friedman, Rick Atkinson and Janet Evanovich, is eliminating 64 positions, just under 4 percent of its work force.

"Going forward we are tightening our belts in response to the current recession, but we are also reorganizing and rethinking our business to position ourselves for the long term," Macmillan CEO John Sargent wrote in a company memo, a copy of which was obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

Simon & Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Thomas Nelson also have announced layoffs in recent weeks. Staff reductions are likely at Random House Inc., which is undergoing a significant consolidation. Other publishers, including Macmillan, have frozen wages or deferred raises.

Sargent said Monday that it was "necessary to adjust our company and become more efficient in the face of the market we are dealing with." He added that there would be no cuts in the budget for acquiring books.

"That's 100 percent unchanged," he said in an interview.

In a move Sargent said he had been looking into for months, Macmillan will combine its seven children's companies into a single division, the Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, effective Jan. 1. Macmillan also plans reductions through a "centralized business and production group for its adult and children's publishing companies," according to the memo.

Other changes include the increased use of digital technology and reducing Macmillan's presence at BookExpo America, the industry's annual national convention. In the Internet age, other publishers have questioned BookExpo's role; the show's manager, Lance Fensterman, has said he is looking at ways to make the show more affordable and more productive.

"I think it makes more sense to funnel our marketing dollars elsewhere," Sargent said, referring to the book convention. Macmillan's publishers include St. Martin's Press, Henry Holt & Co. and Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Macmillan is owned by Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, based in Stuttgart, Germany.

## NY governor says SNL parody mocked the disabled

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Legally blind New York Gov. David Paterson lambasted a "Saturday Night Live" skit for portraying him as an aimless bumbler. But those who have watched the sharp-witted Paterson over his two decades in public service know how he might have deadpanned in the past: I didn't see it.

The skit that aired Saturday featured "SNL" cast member Fred Armisen as Paterson, who must appoint someone to replace Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Armisen said he has three criteria for

filling the job: economic experience, up-state influence and someone who is disabled and unprepared for the job—like himself. He held up a chart illustrating the state's job losses upside down.

"I don't mind that they make fun of me, but I thought it was important of me to stand up for people who don't have a voice and don't have a job," Paterson said.

Marc Liepis, a spokesman for NBC, which broadcasts "Saturday Night Live," said the network would not comment.

Paterson has used self-deprecating humor for years, riffing on his own blindness regularly, even on national television. The pater has only increased praise from advocates for the disabled black man who worked his way through Albany's stodgy Senate to be elected lieutenant governor and

in March take over as governor.

Some of Paterson's greatest hits:

■ At his inauguration after taking over for Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who resigned amid a sex scandal, Paterson joked that he was brought in early the first time he spoke in the Assembly Hall to get used to the massive podium "so I didn't break anything."

■ In a September appearance on "The Colbert Report," he was asked whether he would waive host Stephen Colbert's traffic tickets and replied: "I don't see traffic."

■ When running for lieutenant governor with Spitzer in 2006, he described Spitzer as the idea guy and himself as the legislative technician, "because I sure don't have the vision."

Lee Miringoff, director of The Marist Poll, which regularly gauges

public reaction to politicians, said the reaction to the SNL skit seemed out of character for Paterson and potentially unwise for any politician.

"I can't recall the last time a politician has reacted negatively to being lampooned on 'Saturday Night Live,'" Miringoff said. "It humanizes them. At least your name is on the marquee."

Paterson lost sight in his left eye and much of his right after an infection as an infant. He can see shapes and usually recognizes people as they approach, but he can read for only a few minutes at a time and must hold text close to his face.

Chris Daniels, spokesman for the National Federation of the Blind, said the portrayal suggesting Paterson was befuddled and disoriented because of his blindness is "absolutely wrong."



AP

In this Dec. 1, 2008 file photo, New York Gov. David Paterson speaks at a news conference at the Capitol in Albany, N.Y.



# Tom Cruise tries the risky business of 'Valkyrie'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A Nazi-filled Christmas is not an easy sell.

That's just one of the challenges Tom Cruise faces with his new World War II thriller "Valkyrie," which opens Dec. 25. In the film, which portrays the seldom-recalled German resistance to Adolf Hitler, Cruise plays would-be Hitler assassin Col. Claus von Stauffenberg.

It's a risky film to make and not just because of the sensitive subject matter. Cruise has been trying to rehabilitate his image—and few PR experts regularly advise donning a German army uniform to engender warm feelings.

On the other hand, "Valkyrie" is also a serious, suspenseful film. Can it help put Cruise back on top?

In a recent interview, Cruise and director Bryan Singer downplayed the bad pre-release buzz for "Valkyrie."

The film's release date repeatedly changed. Early ads showing the similar appearance of an eye-patched Cruise and Stauffenberg were mocked online. At one point, German Defense Ministry officials said the production couldn't shoot at Berlin's Benderblock memorial to the Nazi resistance because of Cruise's beliefs in Scientology—which isn't recognized as a religion in Germany. (The statements were quickly recanted and shooting went forward.)

Cruise, 46, is familiar with uncontrollable spirals of bad publicity—and not just in the last few tumultuous years. He has long been dogged by rumors about his personal life and has been through productions (like 1988's "Rain Man," he points out) that seemed doomed before they were released.

"It's nice to be able to have people talk about the film, as opposed to us reading about the film," Cruise said. "It is what it is. And I understand it. I do understand it."

His recent bout of bad publicity started with that fateful appearance on Oprah Winfrey's show in 2005. Then there was the awkward interview with "Today" show host Matt Lauer. The following year, Paramount Pictures severed its 14-year relationship with him.

"As I've said, I want an adventurous life," said Cruise. "And yet I've gotten a little bit more adventure than I bargained for."

A rebound is fully in the works. Cruise revisited Winfrey—the scene of the sofa—earlier this year. On Monday, he publicly patched things up with Lauer. He started his own Web site, too.



Actor Tom Cruise and director Bryan Singer pose in New York on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008.

AP

And last week, he received a Golden Globe nomination for his hilarious performance in Ben Stiller's raunchy summer comedy "Tropic Thunder," in which he plays a dirty-dancing, foul-mouthed studio head.

With producer Paula Wagner, Cruise reformed the United Artists film studio as a boutique label for MGM. Their first film for UA, last year's "Lions for Lambs," was a critical and box-office failure and Wagner exited as chief executive officer in August. The more expensive "Valkyrie"—reportedly made for \$90 million, though Singer said \$75 million is more accurate—is a considerable gamble for both UA and Cruise.

He jokes at the predicament: "Go kill Hitler on Christmas!"

There were many plots to assassinate Hitler, but the one involving Stauffenberg and many other high-ranking German

officers is well-known in Germany. On July 20, 1944 (six weeks after D-Day), Stauffenberg conspired to kill Hitler with a bomb and install a change-of-power scheme called Operation Valkyrie. The plot failed (Hitler would kill himself in April 1945) and about 200 were executed for their involvement.

The film was written by Christopher McQuarrie and his writing partner Nathan Alexander. McQuarrie's last collaboration with Singer was the widely admired "The Usual Suspects" (1994). After bringing "Valkyrie" to Singer, the two expected to make a "small" film for less than \$20 million.

"I love it when he says that," jokes Cruise. "I laugh at him. All you have to do is read the script. It has the planes, it's in Berlin. How is this ever a small film?"

Now embracing his instinct

for big movies, Singer (who also helmed "X-Men," "X2" and "Superman Returns") said, "You sell the small film and then you go: 'We could have cardboard or we could have the metal. I'm just saying.' It is a bit of a shell game."

McQuarrie is quick to acknowledge he never expected the film to get made, but believes the result is a "delightfully odd movie" in the tradition of taut World War II thrillers like "The Great Escape," "The Devil's Brigade" and "Where Eagles Dare."

Said Singer: "We always knew that it was a thriller, we always knew that it was for the mainstream. It was not something we were gunning for awards."

Early reviews for "Valkyrie" have been mixed. Variety said its commercial prospects are "so-so." The Hollywood Reporter called it "a fine film" that "should enjoy modest success, but if Cruise's career is seen as momentarily stalled, 'Valkyrie' is not the electric jolt he's looking for as a jump-start."

Cruise's Stauffenberg is, like many of the actor's roles, an embodiment of determination. With a similar steadfastness to Ethan Hunt of the "Mission: Impossible" movies, the striving agent in "Jerry Maguire" or the more demented determination of Vincent in "Collateral," Cruise's Stauffenberg is resolute.

"I think there is that part of me, there is that spirit of wanting to engage in life," said Cruise. "Here's a guy who worked under tremendous amounts of pressure, and still could be absolutely clear and lucid about his choices and try to push this and drive this forward."

Watching Cruise promote "Valkyrie," it's easy to see a similar indomitable pluck. On his way to a photo shoot, he rapidly changes his shirt, bare chested (and notably muscular) for a flash. Between interviews, he cheerfully autographs a movie poster for a pilot, being sure to

## Cruise says he regrets 'glib' outburst on 'Today' show

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It took a few years, but Tom Cruise says he regrets the tongue-lashing he gave Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today" show the last time he was on. An apologetic Cruise returned to the morning program Monday to sit for his first interview with Lauer since criticizing Brooke Shields for taking anti-depressants in 2005.

"It's not what I had intended," Cruise said. "In looking at myself, I thought, 'man, that came across as arrogant.' ... That's one of those things you go, OK, I could have absolutely handled that better."

That now-infamous conversation grew heated when the star told Lauer he was glib and didn't know about psychiatry.

Cruise, who has been a Scientist for 25 years, agrees with the religion's long-running campaign against psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry.

But in hindsight, "I thought I didn't communicate it the way that I wanted to com-

municate it," the 46-year-old actor says of defending his controversial views in the interview. "And that's also—that's not who I am. ... That's not the person that I am."

Lauer also took a moment to clear something up: He and Cruise remained friendly following their TV debate.

"There was no animosity," Lauer said. "As a matter of fact, at the end of the interview, we got up and shook hands and put our (arms) around each other."

In October, Cruise made a surprise cameo at a Friar's Club roast of the "Today" show host. He joked that Lauer had given him some advice before his couch-jumping episode on Oprah Winfrey's talk show: "Go crazy. Trust me. Trust me. People will love you for it."

Cruise is making the rounds on talk-shows to promote his new movie, "Valkyrie."

He stars as a would-be assassin of Adolf Hitler in "Valkyrie," which is to be released Dec. 25.

sign it "Maverick," alluding to his "Top Gun" character. He speaks passionately about "Valkyrie," repeatedly explaining his interest, above all, in entertaining people and "telling stories."

"I'm a father," said Cruise, who's married to Katie Holmes and has three children. "You have to choose the things you want to focus on. I make movies."

Cruise won't say if that means

removing himself further from his mogul duties at UA, but he does state that he'd like to be making three films a year. (At the moment, he doesn't have anything immediately lined up but is developing several projects.)

As ever, Cruise tries to remain doggedly forward-looking.

"I'm an actor first and foremost," he said. "I have the freedom to do what I want to do."

## Funeral Announcement

### Juan Deleon Guerrero Manalo

September 14, 1946 - December 11, 2008

This is to inform the Relatives, Friends and Family of Ana Deleon Guerrero Manalo and Juan Materne Manalo, That their son Juan Deleon Guerrero Manalo had passed away on December 11th, 2008.



Daily Rosary is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m.

On Friday, December 19, 2008, his remains will be escorted from CHC to San Vicente Church at 7:30 a.m.

Viewing and Last Respects may be paid beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.  
The Family



# Madonna's ex set to get \$75 million in settlement

LONDON (AP)—Madonna has settled her divorce with ex-husband Guy Ritchie by also parting with at least 50 million pounds (\$76 million), the singer's spokeswoman said Monday.

Liz Rosenberg told The Associated Press the settlement was in the range of 50 million to 60 million pounds (\$76 million to \$92 million) as part of their divorce agreement, a figure she said included the value of the couple's country home, Ashcombe House in western England, which Ritchie will keep. Rosenberg said the couple's west London pub—the Punchbowl—would also remain with Ritchie.

A representative for the British filmmaker declined comment.

The couple were reportedly worth some \$525 million, the vast majority of which belonged to Madonna. Ritchie had an estimated \$35 million fortune.

Their multimillion pound (dollar) settlement is about twice the size paid out in Britain's latest high-profile celebrity divorce, that of former Beatle Paul McCartney and model Heather Mills.

"I'd assume it's one of the largest



AP  
In this Sept. 1, 2008 file photo, British director Guy Ritchie, left, and his wife Madonna arrive for the world premiere of his film 'Rock n Rolla' in London.

## Ex-'Sopranos' actor takes stand at murder trial

NEW YORK (AP)—The actor accused in the shooting death of an off-duty policeman testified Monday that he didn't know his alleged accomplice was armed when he went to an apartment looking for drugs.

Taking the witness stand in his own defense at his murder trial in the Bronx, Lillo Brancato sought to fend off suggestions by the prosecution that his testimony—at times punctuated by vignettes about his drug-crazed downfall—was another acting job.

"Is this a role you're playing today?" his attorney Joseph Tacopina asked at the end of a daylong stint on the witness stand.

"Absolutely not," the 32-year-old defendant responded.

Brancato—who got his big break playing opposite Robert De Niro in the 1993 film "A Bronx Tale" and also is known for playing a wannabe mobster on the HBO hit "The



Brancato

Sopranos"—is charged with second-degree murder in the December 2005 shooting death of Officer Daniel Enchautegui.

Authorities say Armento and Brancato broke into the basement apartment to steal prescription drugs after a night of drinking at a strip club. Enchautegui, who lived next door, came out to investigate.

Armento blasted the 28-year-old officer with his .357 Magnum, hitting him in the heart. The dying officer fired back, wounding both men.

Armento was convicted earlier this year of first-degree murder.

Brancato testified that there was a never a break-in. He claimed that he had known the owner, a Vietnam veteran, for several years. He also said he had permission to go inside and take painkillers and other pills whenever he felt like it, and didn't know the man had died earlier that year.

The pills were part of a drug problem

that he said began when he was "introduced to marijuana" on the set of "A Bronx Tale." He later became hooked on crack and heroin, he said.

He told the jury that while suffering from judgment-impairing heroin withdrawals on the night of the shooting, he accidentally broke the kitchen window of the apartment in a desperate attempt to wake up his old pill-supplier.

"I was becoming dope sick," Brancato testified. "Mentally, I was a mess."

Brancato and Armento left momentarily to try to get drugs from a drug dealer. When that failed, they returned to the basement apartment and came face-to-face with the officer.

"I heard someone say, 'Don't move,'" Brancato said. "I turned around quickly and I was shot twice."

Brancato said he ran away, not knowing he'd been shot by a police officer. When uniformed officers stopped him, he lifted up his shirt to show them he was wounded.

"Please help me," he said he told them. "I don't want to die."



LOS ANGELES TIMES.

British singer Adele, 20, has been nominated for four Grammy's, including one for best new artist.

## Adele wants a Grammy after all

By TODD MARTENS  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—After scoring four Grammy nominations, including one for best new artist, British soul singer Adele downplayed her chance of winning, telling the British media that "I don't feel like I need awards."

Now, Adele has made it clear she'll be at the Feb. 8, 2009, Grammys ceremony in Los Angeles.

And, yes, she wants a miniature gramophone. She wasn't, she promises, dismissing the awards.

"The quote that came out on the BBC about the Grammys made it sound like I didn't want to win a Grammy, and that I didn't need to win a Grammy," Adele, 20, said recently. "But what I meant is that a Grammy is like an Oscar. You win an Oscar when you give the perfor-

mance of your life. I just hope that this isn't the performance of my life ... I didn't mean it to sound like I was ungrateful. I don't need a Grammy to feel good about myself, but I would love a Grammy."

Adele's debut album, "19," shot up the U.S. charts after she appeared on "Saturday Night Live" this fall, benefiting from singing the night Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was a guest.

With a slight smoker's rasp, the singer graces the simplest of arrangements with a flighty, jazzy styling, an approach she picked up from singing along to Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday albums.

And don't talk to her about needing a life's experience to sing soul music.

"Etta James is the only artist I've ever proper believed when I listened to her, like, 'Oh, I feel her pain,'" Adele says.

payouts ever in a divorce settlement," Rosenberg said.

The biggest contested divorce settlement in English history was the 48 million pounds (about \$90 million at the time) insurance tycoon John Charman was ordered to pay his ex-wife in 2006.

But U.K.-based entertainment lawyer Ambi Sitham said it made sense for Madonna to divest herself of her British property.

"She's got no interest in remaining here," Sitham said. "She's relocating and moving back to New York. It's money she's already paid out—what is she going to do, try to sell the houses in a flagging market?"

Rosenberg said that while the financial component of the settlement had been worked out, custodial arrangements for the couple's children have yet to be finalized.

Madonna and Ritchie, director of "Snatch" and "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," have two children, Rocco, 8, and David Banda, 3, who was adopted from Malawi in 2006. The singer has a 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes, from a previous relationship with personal trainer Carlos Leon.

The pair were married in a lavish ceremony in December 2000 at Skibo Castle in the Scottish Highlands.

But in recent years, reports began to accumulate that their relationship was on the rocks. Over the summer, Madonna was linked—unfairly, she said—to the breakup of New York Yankee Alex Rodriguez and his wife, Cynthia.

Madonna and Ritchie announced their split in October after months of tabloid speculation. They were granted a preliminary divorce decree on Nov. 21 and the split is expected to become final in January.

## Jury rules Pickford agreement is valid

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury has ruled in favor of the organization that hands out the Academy Awards in a dispute over whether statuettes won by one of its founding members can be sold.

The panel in Los Angeles sided with the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on Monday, saying three women who own Oscars won by silent film star Mary Pickford are bound to an agreement barring their sale.

The ruling paves the way for a judge to take the verdict a step further during a hearing next week and block the sale of the statuettes, which is what the academy wants.

Pickford was part of early Hollywood's royalty. Along with other actors, she helped found United Artists and was one of the academy's 36 original members.

To try to prevent the sale of Pickford's awards, the academy last year sued the heirs of Beverly Rogers, who married Pickford's third husband, Buddy Rogers, after the silent film star's death in 1979.

Her estate included three Oscar statuettes—two given to Pickford

and an honorary award given to Buddy Rogers.

Attorneys for Beverly Rogers' heirs said after the verdict that they were "extremely disappointed" but hope the judge will ignore the verdict and allow the sale of one of the awards.

"We're obviously delighted with the jury's verdict," said David Quinto, an attorney representing the academy.

Rogers' heirs said they hoped to sell Pickford's award for the 1929 film "Coquette" and donate the money to charity, as spelled out in Beverly Rogers' will.

"All they ever wanted to do was donate money to charity pursuant to their aunt's wishes and they can't believe the academy put them through all this," said Mark D. Passin, the lead lawyer for Rogers' heirs.

The rule against selling Oscars was instituted in the 1950s and is meant to preserve the awards' unique value, academy attorneys said during the trial.

According to the agreement, the academy has the right to buy back Oscars for up to \$10 before any statuette can be sold.



AP

In this March 26, 1976 file photo, actress Mary Pickford, 83, a star of Hollywood's silent film era, holds the Honorary Oscar given to her in recognition of her contributions to the film industry, at her home in Beverly Hills, Calif., March 26, 1976.



# Feds seize artifacts from hit show 'Survivor'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal tribe has spoken: A contaminated monkey skull, termite-infested statues and other African artifacts of the TV show "Survivor" will not be allowed into the U.S.

Officials disclosed Monday that customs inspectors in Houston seized a variety of restricted items that were being shipped to the U.S. in a container belonging to the CBS reality show. Among the items: the hide from an African cat suspected of carrying a dangerous disease, a mandrill skull, civet hides, parrot, poultry and ostrich feathers, bones and cowries shells.

The 17th edition of "Survivor" took place in the West African nation of Gabon, the country from which the container was shipped. The final episode was shown Sunday night.

The imports were seized Nov. 18 out of concern that they were contaminated with pests and disease that could harm U.S. agriculture, according to officials. Civet cats are mongoose-like animals that are a delicacy in China and are suspected of spreading severe acute respira-

tory syndrome—SARS—to humans. Inspectors also found wooden statues with termites.

The restricted goods were fumigated by the Agriculture Department, said Customs spokeswoman Yolanda Chaotes. She said the prohibited items were sent away from the U.S. and no decision has been made about penalties on the importer.

Jeffery Baldwin Sr., Custom's director of field operations at the Houston port, said: "Introducing an exotic disease or pest could harm our citizens or devastate our agriculture crops."

Officials from "Survivor" did not return immediate requests for comment. Contestants are eliminated from the show each week with the mantra: "The tribe has spoken."

In this photo provided by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection from Oct. 17, 2008, termites were discovered in this wooden statue and the bird feathers attached to it were contaminated and posed a biological hazard, that were in a sea container searched by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection upon its arrival in Houston.



# Dennis Quaid, wife, settle with hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Documents show Dennis Quaid and his wife have agreed to a \$750,000 settlement with a hospital that gave his newborn twins an overdose of blood thinner.

A petition filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday shows the Quaid family and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center have agreed on the parents' damages, but can still pursue claims for their children.

The documents state Cedars-Sinai is not admitting wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

Documents show the Quaid family sued drug maker Baxter Healthcare Corp. in Illinois over the drug's packaging, but that case has been dismissed. The petition filed Monday indicates Baxter may also sue Cedars-Sinai, which administered too much Heparin to several patients in November 2007, including the Quaid family's twins.



In this July 22, 2008 file photo, actor Dennis Quaid talks at a news conference after touring Children's Medical Center in Dallas.



## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Feds say Follieri agrees he owes \$3.6 million

NEW YORK (AP)—The Italian ex-boyfriend of actress Anne Hathaway has agreed he owes more than \$3.6 million to those he ripped off in a real-estate scam. Federal prosecutors said in New York court papers Monday that Raffaello Follieri has agreed to pay restitution of \$2 million to Toronto-based Dundee Realty Corp. They say he has agreed to pay \$813,000 to Yucaipa Corporate Initiatives Fund and \$40,000 to an Atlantic City monsignor. Follieri is serving 4 1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty to cheating investors. Prosecutors say he falsely claimed Vatican connections would let him buy church property cheap. Follieri's lawyer did not immedi-

ately return a telephone message seeking comment.

### Judge sentences Hollywood private eye to 15 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood private investigator Anthony Pellicano has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for running a wiretapping scheme that spied on the rich and famous. U.S. District Judge Dale Fischer sentenced the 64-year-old Pellicano on Monday and ordered him and two other defendants to forfeit a total of \$2 million. Pellicano was convicted of 78 total counts, including wiretapping, racketeering and wire fraud, in two trials earlier this year. Prosecutors say Pellicano wiretapped stars such as Sylvester Stallone and bribed police to run names such as Gary Shandling and Kevin Nealon

through law enforcement databases to find dirt clients could use in legal and other disputes. In all, 14 people have been charged and seven have pleaded guilty.

### Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber welcome baby Samuel

NEW YORK (AP)—It's another boy for Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber. The couple welcomed their second son on Saturday, said Watt's publicist, Robin Baum. Samuel Kai Schreiber weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces. "Both mom and baby are doing great," Baum said Monday. The Australian actress, 40, and her 41-year-old actor-boyfriend are also parents to Alexander Pete Schreiber, born in July 2007. They have been dating three years and co-starred in the 2006 drama "The Painted Veil." Schreiber

can next be seen in "Defiance," set for release later this month. Watts' credits include "Eastern Promises" and "King Kong."

### Jack Black to guest-star on 'The Office'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jack Black is headed to "The Office," guest-starring in an episode slated to air during a ratings-rich time slot: after the Super Bowl. The Feb. 1 episode of the sitcom, titled "Stress Relief," will follow the office drones as they try to secretly watch a bootlegged Hollywood movie at work. The network did not say how Black will factor into the story line. Black recently starred in "Tropic Thunder." His other film credits include "King Kong," "High Fidelity" and the voice of the main character in the animated "Kung Fu Panda."

# Dad says daughter's interest in girls means no sleepovers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** My 14-year-old daughter, "Melissa," is bisexual. Most girls her age have sleepovers, but my husband says that any girl Melissa likes should be considered the same as a boyfriend, so it is not appropriate for her to spend the night.

I disagree. A girlfriend is not the same—mainly because Melissa won't end up getting pregnant after spending the night with a girl. What do you think?

*Dear Abby*

MOM IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

**DEAR MOM:** If Melissa is romantically attracted to a particular girl, your husband has a valid point. However, he is mistaken if he thinks that because Melissa is bisexual she is attracted to EVERY female she meets. That is no more true than the idea that heterosexual individuals are sexually attracted to EVERY member of the opposite sex. When it comes to friendships, most are platonic—and you and your husband should keep that in mind before deciding whether or not to allow your daughter to participate in sleepovers.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, "Donald," and I are retired. He attends social meetings about four times a month. Food is served at these meetings, and he usually brings part of the meal home. Then he announces that the food is "his" and that I shouldn't eat any.

Abby, his "take-home" will stay in the refrigerator for a day or so, and I have to see it every time I open the door. It often looks delicious—not the kind of thing we usually have for meals at home. Don will then eat it in front of me, and it kills me that he won't share.

I have tried telling my husband that he should share his food, but it throws him into a rage. He claims the food is his because it was part of a meal he didn't finish and brought home to eat.

I'd like your opinion because I consider this cruel. Who's right?

JAYNE IN MIAMI

**DEAR JAYNE:** You are, and I can see how your husband's behavior is hard to swallow. His actions are not only selfish but also intimidating. People who won't share food are usually selfish about other things as well.

Allow me to share a bit of advice: On the nights when your husband is socializing, make some plans with some of your women friends. Because you're not getting your treats at home, get them elsewhere.

**DEAR ABBY:** As the years have passed, my brown hair has slowly been replaced by threads of silver. Friends and relatives have teased me about it. I don't let their remarks bother me, but certain individuals do irritate me with their remarks. So I came up with a comeback to address their comments.

I tell them with a smile that each of my white hairs represents a "seed of wisdom" in my "field" of knowledge. I love seeing their expressions when I say this. Perhaps this will help other seniors. What do you think, Abby?

R.J.P. IN MAINE

**DEAR R.J.P.:** The decision to color one's hair—or not—is a personal one. Some people prefer to let nature take its course while others would rather "curl up and dye" than show any gray. I respect not only your refusal to be "teased" into doing something you don't want to do, but also that you do it with humor.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

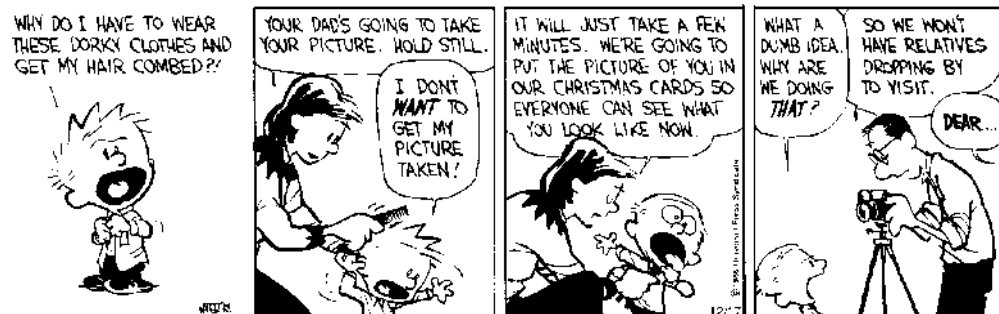
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



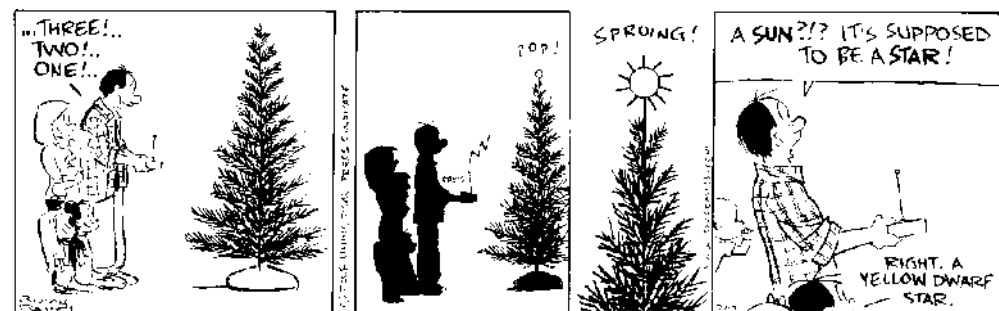
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



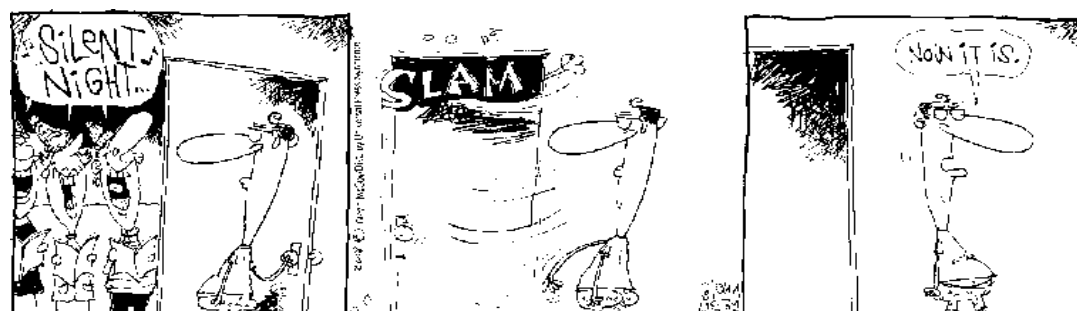
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

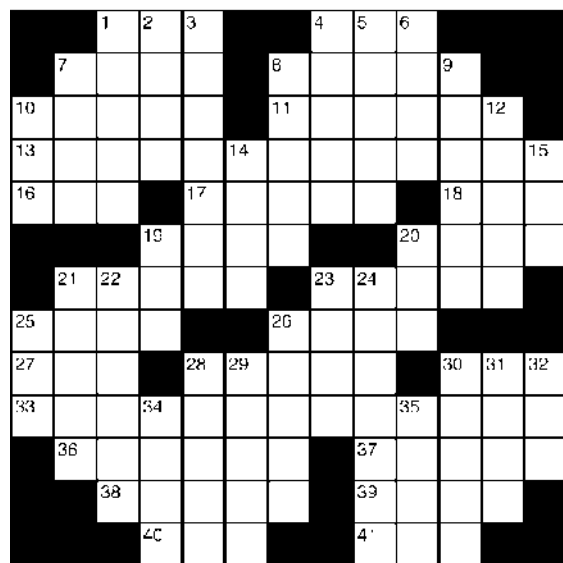
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sloppy home  
4 Fed. watchdog org.  
7 Gambling game  
8 Vise  
10 Had a bug  
11 Esteems  
13 What Jack did  
16 Still, in verse  
17 Senior moment  
18 Cattle call?  
19 Yon maiden's  
20 Succotash ingredient  
21 Steeple  
23 Click-and-drag device  
25 Reynolds or Lancaster  
26 "Monopoly" pair
- DOWN**
- 1 Beauty parlor  
2 "Star —"  
3 Aloine singer  
4 Soft silk thread  
5 Terpsichore's domain  
6 Cupid's specialty  
7 Contagion  
8 Fish side-dish  
9 Ads for upcoming TV shows  
10 Honest politician  
12 Cussed  
14 Tortoise's opponent  
15 Negative prefix  
19 Smack  
20 Prompt  
21 Dawn  
22 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, etc.  
23 Chinese dynasty  
24 Vast  
25 Cudgel  
26 Copenhagen  
28 Gave hints  
29 Puts on the line  
30 Denude  
31 Fashion lines?  
32 Century fractions (Abbr.)  
34 Raised  
35 "In — penny, in ..."

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-17



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Vanessa Zima, 22; Milla Jovovich, 33; Bill Pullman, 55; Bob Guccione, 78

**Happy Birthday:** It's time for you to explore new people, places and activities. Adapt to the current atmosphere and you will prove your ability to rise to the top and take over when the time is right. Your steady appeal coupled with your ability to see outside the normal guidelines will enable you to mastermind your way through turbulence, bringing order out of chaos. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 21, 25, 39, 41

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You may feel like having fun, traveling about and socializing but tidy up loose ends and focus on business first. You will get help from someone you love if you ask. A change in a business relationship will take you by surprise. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take control before someone else does. You can't let love interfere with what needs to be done. You can get ahead but only if you are serious, practical and budget-minded. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You may feel torn between two people or two choices. Look at the long-term effects before you decide—it will be well worth the effort. There will be no turning back once you have made your choice. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You can make someone who needs help feel useful by including him or her in your preparations. Added responsibilities can sometimes be

more of a help than a hindrance if you handle everyone involved with dignity. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Impulse buying or decisions will set you back. Be smart, even if you are torn by emotional situations. This is not the time to play favorites or to be overly generous. Plan carefully and stay within your means. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You'll find it difficult to keep your emotions out of the situations you face today. Tempers will escalate if you disagree but backing down will also lead to anguish and stress. Find common ground and work your way to an agreement everyone can live with. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You appear to have everything under control but someone you know will give you a difficult time, regardless of your well-thought-out plans. Follow your heart and stick to your game plan. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stick to what you know best and avoid anyone who is trying to get something from you. This is a great day to make some personal changes but not the best time to share with others or to let others interfere in your business. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Someone may tug on your heartstrings but be strong. This is no time to make impulsive moves or to put yourself in a precarious position. Focus on the ones you love. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can sign a deal, finish a settlement or make positive changes to your invest-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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ments. There is money or a gift in the mix. Don't be afraid to make an offer or proposal to someone you want on your team. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A partnership will come into play, allowing you to do more than you first thought possible. Let your full intentions be known and put things in place for the upcoming year. Once your plans are in order, the rest will be easy. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Times are changing quickly and you have to keep up with the crowd. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. You may have to compromise to get what you want. Someone may question your motives if you won't budge. ★★

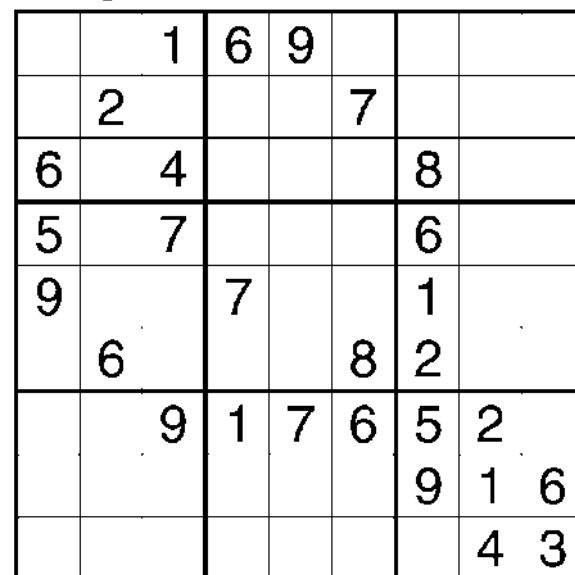
**Birthday Baby:** You are proud and a little bit stubborn. You fight for what you believe is right. You are strong, stable, capable, willing and determined to succeed.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

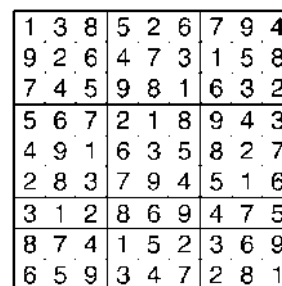


Difficulty Level ★★

12/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Horizontal only, vertically, diagonally, even backward. First them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ZIMBABWE NEEDS HELP

Solution: 9 letters



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12/17

Africa, Arabs, Bantu, Bird, Botswana, Change, Efforts, Export, Flag, Fuel, Houses, Humanitarian, Imports, Issues, Lacto, Lands, Limpopo, Marcel, Malabea, Mines, Movement, Mozambique, Mutapa, Mutapa Empire, Rhodesia, Robert, Sadza, Shona, Sir, deane, Soil, Speech, State, Teach, Terrair, Victoria Falls, Zambesi, Zambesi, Zanu, Zebra, Zimbabwe

Yesterday's Answer: Longhorn

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# Celtics earn 15th straight win, beat Jazz



**BOSTON (AP)**—Rajon Rondo scored 12 of his career-high 25 points in the final 5:20, and Kevin Garnett had 19 points and 10 rebounds on Monday to lead the Boston Celtics to their 15th consecutive victory, 100-91 over the Utah Jazz.

Kendrick Perkins added 15 points and 14 rebounds for Boston, which avenged the worst loss of its championship season. Paul Pierce scored 15 points before he hurt his left knee during a scramble for a defensive rebound with 31 seconds left. He said he should be all right.

Paul Millsap scored a career-high 32 points with 10 rebounds for Utah.

## Suns 111, Knicks 103

At Phoenix, Steve Nash scored 21 points, including a game-clinching 3-pointer with 28 seconds to play, and the Suns spoiled New York coach Mike D'Antoni's return to Phoenix.

Shaquille O'Neal had 23 points, making 11 of 18 free throws, and 12 rebounds. Amare Stoudemire added 21 points and 14 boards for the Suns, who topped 110 points for the fourth game in a row.

Nate Robinson scored 27, 17 after halftime, in his second game back from a groin injury for New York. Al Harrington added 24, but D'Antoni's run-and-shoot squad was just 5-of-37 on 3-pointers.

## Nuggets 98, Mavericks 88

At Dallas, reserve J.R. Smith scored 25 points, Carmelo Anthony added 23, and Denver beat Dallas to extend its winning streak to four games.

Chauncey Billups had 15 points and eight assists for the Nuggets, who have won seven of eight and improved to 16-4 since Billups joined the team after a Nov. 3 trade with the Detroit Pistons.

Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Terry scored 19 points for the Mavericks, who had won 11 of their previous 13.

## Bucks 98, Heat 83

At Miami, Michael Redd scored 16 of his 21 points in the first quarter, and Milwaukee started quickly before holding off a late rally to beat Miami.

Andrew Bogut had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Charlie Villanueva added 20 points for Milwaukee, which won on the road for the first time since beating Charlotte on Nov. 22.

Mario Chalmers had 20 points, eight



Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo (9) dives as he attempts to knock the ball free from the hands of Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams (8) during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday Dec. 15, 2008.

assists and seven rebounds, and Dwyane Wade added 15 points for the Heat, who lost their third straight game.

## Nets 94, Raptors 87

At Toronto, Vince Carter had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Ryan Anderson scored 21 points, and New Jersey beat Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

Devin Harris added 16 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter. Carter scored a season-high 39 points in a 129-127 overtime victory at Toronto on Nov. 21, but had only three points and shot a career-worst 0-for-13 against his former team as the Raptors beat the Nets 101-79 last Friday.

Chris Bosh and Jason Kapono each scored 17 for Toronto. Jose Calderon added 15 points and Jermaine O'Neal had 12 for the Raptors, who have lost seven of nine.

## Pacers 118, Wizards 98

At Washington, Danny Granger scored 27 points and Marquis Daniels had 20 points as Indiana snapped a six-game losing streak by beating Washington.

Point guards T.J. Ford and Jarrett Jack each scored 16 points for the Pacers (8-16), who had dropped eight of

nine coming in.

Antawn Jamison had 26 points and a season-high 15 rebounds his 14th double-double this season—and Caron Butler scored 26 for Washington, which has the Eastern Conference's worst record (4-18) and has lost six of seven.

## Hawks 83, Bobcats 79

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 18 of his 28 points in the second half to lead Atlanta over Charlotte, extending the Bobcats' losing streak to seven.

Al Horford added 12 points and 14 rebounds for Atlanta (15-9), which won its third straight and improved to 9-1 at home.

Boris Diaw led Charlotte (7-18) with a season-high 25 points. Raymond Felton added 15.

## Kings 118, Timberwolves 103

At Sacramento, California, Francisco Garcia scored 21 points, John Salmons added 17 and Sacramento beat Minnesota in the Kings' first game under interim coach Kenny Natt.

A few hours after the Kings fired Reggie Theus and replaced him with Natt, the veteran assistant coach pre-

sided over one of Sacramento's best efforts of the season against the Timberwolves, who lost their 10th straight. Brad Miller added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings in just their second win in 12 games.

Al Jefferson scored all of his 22 points in the first half for Minnesota in a meeting of struggling teams that both fired their head coaches in the past eight days. The Timberwolves dropped to 0-5 under Kevin McHale, who replaced Randy Wittman last week.

## Magic 109, Warriors 98

At Oakland, California, Jameer Nelson scored 23 of his career high-tying 32 points in the second half as Orlando beat Golden State for its fourth win in five road games.

Marcin Gortat, starting in place of the injured Dwight Howard, recorded his second career double-double with career bests of 16 points and 13 rebounds as the Magic improved to 19-6, their best 25-game start since opening the 1994-95 season at 20-5. Rashard Lewis added 21 points and Courtney Lee had 16.

## Kings fire coach Reggie Theus

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**—Reggie Theus got barely more than 100 games to lead the Sacramento Kings before they headed in yet another direction with yet another new head coach.

Theus was fired by Sacramento on Monday after a 6-18 start to his second season with the club. Assistant coach Kenny Natt led the last-place Kings to a 118-103 victory over Minnesota a few hours later, just Sacramento's second win in 12 games.

Natt, a first-time head coach who has the job on an interim basis, is the fourth coach in less than three years for the Kings, who are in disarray after a prolonged run as one of the NBA's elite clubs earlier in the decade.

Assistant coach Chuck Person was fired along with Theus, who went 44-62 in his brief tenure with Sacramento.

"We feel for him, because Reggie is a great guy who did a lot for this organization," said guard Bobby Jackson, who experienced a midseason coaching change for the first time in his 12 NBA seasons. "Coach Natt, he's like a drill sergeant. He's from the old school, and I'm looking forward to that. If you work hard, you're going to play. That's his philosophy."

Before routing Minnesota in Natt's encouraging debut, the Kings had lost 10 of 11 to fall into the Pacific Division cellar, with only a win over the Los Angeles Lakers in the last 3 1/2 weeks. Sacramento's 24-point home loss to the New York Knicks on Saturday night—the ninth loss in 10 games at Arco Arena—was Theus' final game.

"When you look at the overall level of performance that we've experienced this year, it's just not where we want to be," said Geoff Petrie, the Kings'

top basketball executive. "Sometimes you just need to try a different voice if you want to try and change things. It's not about just any one game."

Theus is the sixth coach fired in the NBA already this season, following P.J. Carlesimo (Oklahoma City), Eddie Jordan (Washington), Sam Mitchell (Toronto), Randy Wittman (Minnesota) and Maurice Cheeks (Philadelphia), who was dismissed Saturday.

Natt is in his second season with the Kings after three years as an assistant with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who reached the NBA finals in 2007. He played three NBA seasons, including a stint with the Kansas City Kings, before moving up the coaching ranks in a path that included nine seasons as an assistant to Utah coach Jerry Sloan, who called Natt with pregame congratulations.

Theus said he was grateful for the opportunity to run an NBA club early in his coaching career, claiming he wouldn't change anything about his short tenure in Sacramento.

"It was a great experience, and I just wish I could have seen it through," Theus told KHTK-AM, the Kings' flagship radio station. "For it to have been better, a lot of things would have had to have been different. ... I think we were entertaining. Good and bad, when people came to games, it was fun."

Theus played 13 seasons in the NBA, memorably scoring the first basket for the first Kings team in Sacramento after the club's move to Northern California in 1985. He went 38-44 in his debut season as head coach after the Kings hired him away from New Mexico State, where he built a solid program that marked him as an up-and-coming coaching prospect.

# Phillies keep Moyer, add Chan Ho Park



**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Jamie Moyer understands the importance of timing. The veteran left-hander's return to his native Philadelphia resulted in his first World Series title. And, last season's success led to Monday's agreement on a \$13 million, two-year contract that keeps the durable 46-year-old with the champion Phillies.

"I feel based off of last season, the security of a two-year contract pushes and drives me," Moyer said. "In my estimation, I don't think the negotiations dragged on. Both sides had a stance which they believed to be right. Things moved along smoothly and it's all about timing."

"I'm happy to be with the Phillies and look forward to defending the World Series championship."

Philadelphia also confirmed it has a preliminary agreement with Chan Ho Park, a one-year contract worth \$2.5 million.

And on a busy day of Phillies' news, All-Star second baseman Chase Utley said he is recovering well from hip surgery and hopes to be ready for opening day.

Moyer went 16-7 with a 3.71 ERA in 33 starts last season and pitched six strong innings as the Phillies won Game 3 of the World Series.

He is 35-21 with a 4.33 ERA in 74 starts since the Phillies acquired him from Seattle in August 2006, and the Souderton, Pa., native has 246 career wins.

"I'm sure if you ask Jamie, he'll say that he will play out a few more contracts," Phillies general manager Ru-

ben Amaro Jr. said Monday. "I know on paper it probably says this is his last contract, but it will be fun to see how it plays out."

Amaro is confident Moyer will find a way to win at an age when some players are in their second decade of retirement. Moyer depends on pinpoint control and offspeed pitches.

"If his stuff does go backward, he'll try to figure it out and how to pitch through it," Amaro said. "That's the beauty of Jamie Moyer."

Possibly the oldest player to receive a guaranteed multiyear contract, Moyer would earn \$20 million over the two years if he pitches 190 innings and makes 31 starts each season.

He will receive base salaries of \$6.5 million in each of the next two seasons, and he can make an additional \$1.25

million in performance bonuses each year: \$250,000 each for 150, 160, 170, 180 and 190 innings pitched.

In addition, his 2010 base can escalate by up to \$4.5 million: \$250,000 each for 150 innings and 23 starts, and \$500,000 each for 160, 170, 180 and 190 innings, and 25, 27, 29 and 31 starts.

Moyer has a limited no-trade provision that allows him to block trades to six teams, no more than four in a league.

Park was quoted by the Korea Times as saying the Phillies considered him a starter, but Amaro declined to say whether Park will compete for a starting spot or pitch in relief. The 35-year-old went 4-4 with a 3.40 ERA in 54 appearances for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season, going 1-0 with a 2.16 ERA in five starts. He could compete with Kyle Kendrick, J.A. Happ and prospect Carlos Carrasco

for the fifth spot in the rotation.

Park can earn an additional \$2.5 million in performance bonuses.

Utley walked into his news conference with an exaggerated limp, but said he hoped to be ready for the start of the season April 5.

"I'm feeling good," said Utley, whose right hip was operated on Nov. 24. "I don't see any reason why I won't be ready for the start of the season barring any setbacks."

Utley acknowledged that he played through much of the 2008 season with a bad right hip. He hit .292 with 33 homers and 104 RBIs, but appeared to wear down as the season progressed.

His next evaluation is scheduled to take place in about a month.

"I'm young and I think it was the best course of action," he said. "It's a problem that I've probably had for a long time. I don't play soft and I think it worked out pretty well."



# McNabb leads Eagles to 30-10 win over Browns



**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Written off last month, the resurgent Philadelphia Eagles are making a strong playoff push.

Donovan McNabb threw for 290 yards and two touchdowns, Asante Samuel scored on an interception return and the Eagles beat the struggling Cleveland Browns 30-10 on Monday night for their third straight victory.

Philadelphia (8-5-1) remained a half-game behind three teams in the race for the two NFC wild-card spots. The Eagles have to win their final two games—at Washington and home against Dallas—and need Atlanta or

Tampa Bay to lose once to secure a playoff berth.

The Browns (4-10) have lost four in a row. At least they finally scored a touchdown on Brandon McDonald's 24-yard interception return in the fourth quarter. The Browns, who didn't reach the end zone in the previous three games, could be looking for a new coach to replace Romeo Crennel after the season.

Jason Avant had five receptions for 101 yards—his first career 100-yard game. McNabb finished 26-of-35 before he was replaced by Kevin Kolb with more than 10 minutes remaining.

Just three weeks ago, the Eagles were in shambles. People were calling

for coach Andy Reid to be fired and McNabb's days in Philadelphia seemed numbered after he was benched for the first time in his career at halftime of a 36-7 loss at Baltimore.

But the Eagles answered with impressive wins over the playoff-bound Arizona Cardinals and New York Giants. They easily handled the Browns, despite squandering several opportunities.

The Eagles reached the red zone on all seven possessions with McNabb under center, but managed just two touchdowns and three field goals. They had a 17-3 lead at halftime that likely would've been bigger if it weren't for two interceptions in the end zone.

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb (5) looks to pass as Cleveland Browns linebacker Kamerion Wimbley (95) closes in during the first quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, in Philadelphia.

AP



## Chiefs GM resigns after 2-12 record

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)**—Carl Peterson, who turned the Kansas City Chiefs into an NFL powerhouse in the 1990s, is out after nearly 20 years as president, CEO and general manager.

Clark Hunt, announcing his first major decision since he became chairman of the board upon the death two years ago of his father, Lamar, said the future of coach Herm Edwards would be decided later.

Hunt also said his decision was not based on what happened the previous day, when the Chiefs lost an 11-point lead in the final 73 seconds and were beaten 22-21 by San Diego, dropping their record to 2-12.

"I had a chance to meet with Herm earlier today and I told him I was very supportive of him and the job he's done in his approach to rebuilding the football team," Hunt said in an interview with The Associated Press and the Kansas City Star.

"Ultimately, the decision on his future and the rest of the coaching staff is one the new GM will have significant input into. It will be my decision, and we'll cross that bridge when we get to it."

Peterson will serve out the remaining two weeks of the season and then Denny Thum, the Chiefs executive vice president, will be interim president. Hunt also said he would split the duties and have someone in charge of the business side and someone else in charge of football for the franchise his

late father moved from Dallas in 1963.

Tight end Tony Gonzalez, one of the greatest players in team history, said he was surprised the change was made before the season ended.

"I would expect there to be other changes as well," the nine-time Pro Bowler told the AP. "When things go this badly, changes are usually made. I think most players would be supportive of Herm."

Edwards declined to meet with reporters but did speak briefly later Monday night on the Chiefs weekly radio show. He did not address his personal situation but said the team was headed in the right direction with its emphasis on rebuilding through youth.

"I think the future for this football team is bright. I think you can see that," Edwards said.

"This team has gotten better over the last month. It's got a lot of young players. I think the foundation is built for this football team now. It's a great situation to be in for a football coach."

Peterson took over a sad sack Chiefs operation in 1989 and hired Marty Schottenheimer as coach. Together, they built the Chiefs into one of the league's most successful teams over the next 10 years. Year after year Arrowhead Stadium sold out and the Chiefs competed for the AFC West title.

They never did get to the ultimate goal, the Super Bowl. With Joe Mon-

tana at quarterback, they did reach the AFC title game in the 1993 season, but lost to Buffalo.

However, Kansas City faltered the past decade after Schottenheimer resigned and seemed to hit a low point with an emotionally draining loss Sunday to San Diego.

"On behalf of my family and the entire Kansas City Chiefs organization, I want to thank Carl for his two decades of service to the Chiefs," Hunt said in a written statement. "Both Carl and I agreed that immediately initiating the search for the next Chiefs general manager would be the best thing for the future of the organization, and he will be resigning following the 2008 season."

During Peterson's 20 years at the helm, the Chiefs amassed a 176-141-1 record, won the AFC West four times.

"I am proud of my association with the Kansas City Chiefs and our many accomplishments over the last 20 years," Peterson said in a statement released by the Chiefs. "I thank the Hunt family for the opportunity to lead the Chiefs organization and sincerely appreciate all the coaches, players, administrators and Chiefs employees with whom I've had the pleasure of working in my time here. Most importantly, I want to thank Chiefs fans around the country for their passionate support through the years. Chiefs fans are the finest in all of professional football."

Rookie wide receiver DeSean Jackson threw the first one after taking a direct snap at the 7. Sean Jones made a diving catch to pick off Jackson's underthrown pass early in the second quarter.

McDonald then intercepted McNabb's pass on the final play of the second and ran it back 98 yards to the Eagles 7. McDonald was chased by Brian Westbrook and finally caught from behind by Hank Baskett, who was the intended receiver on the play.

Cleveland's Ken Dorsey, making his second straight start for the injured Derek Anderson and Brady Quinn, was intercepted twice.

Since his benching, McNabb has played like the guy who went to five Pro Bowls and led the Eagles to four consecutive NFC championship games and a Super Bowl. He has completed 72 of 104 passes for 741 yards, seven TDs and one interception in the last three games. His passer rating is 107.9 in those games.

McNabb came out firing, complet-

ing all four of his passes on the opening possession, including a 14-yard TD strike to Kevin Curtis that gave the Eagles a 7-0 lead. A 20-yard completion to Jason Avant on third-and-5 kept the drive going.

In the second, Samuel stepped in front of Dorsey's pass intended for Donte' Stallworth and raced 50 yards for a touchdown to make it 17-3. It appeared Samuel tossed the ball aside at the 1 just like Jackson did against the Dallas Cowboys in a Monday night game in Week 2. But Samuel quickly picked the ball up in the end zone. The Browns didn't challenge, but it wouldn't have mattered.

It was the first touchdown this season for Samuel, who signed a \$57.14 million, six-year free-agent contract in March.

McNabb connected with Greg Lewis for a 10-yard TD pass that made it 30-3 in the fourth quarter.

Eagles safety Brian Dawkins set a team record by playing in his 181st game, passing wide receiver Harold Carmichael.

## Raiders assistant leaves to join Kiffin with Vols

**ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)**—Interim Raiders coach Tom Cable lashed out at assistant offensive line coach James Cregg on Monday for leaving with two games left in the season and joining former coach Lane Kiffin's staff at Tennessee.

Cregg told Cable of his decision to depart the Raiders on Sunday night, telling him he was taking a job with the Volunteers.

"Quite frankly, I'm disappointed by all these things, mostly by the fact that someone would quit on this organization, this football team and this head coach at this juncture," Cable said Monday. "It's wrong."

It's the latest strike in the feud between Kiffin and Raiders owner Al Davis, which started a year ago when Kiffin wanted to interview for the head coaching job at Arkansas before finishing his first season in Oakland.

Davis tried to get Kiffin to resign in the offseason, but the coach refused. Then Kiffin spent the next months criticizing personnel and other decisions he said were made by Davis before getting fired Sept. 30 for cause.

Davis called Kiffin a liar at the news conference announcing the firing and said he would not pay him the remainder of his contract. Kiffin later filed a grievance to recover the approximately \$2.6 million he was still owed under the deal.

Kiffin then was introduced as Tennessee's new coach on Dec. 1 and now he has taken one of Oakland's coaches away with two games remaining in the season.

"I think that's the wrong way to handle things," Cable said. "I think that anybody in their right mind would understand the college rules. They're in a dead period starting next weekend. So James' services are really only needed for the next five days, at which time we'll be done in a couple weeks. In terms of that, if James wanted to take a position, he should have at that time."

Cable said he was angry at Kiffin for taking a coach during the season, saying that he once had a lot of respect

for him. He said he planned to call Kiffin to confront him on the issue.

"It's wrong," Cable said. "Wrong in this business, wrong in the business of coaching."

A Tennessee spokeswoman declined to comment on Cregg's apparent hiring and Cable's criticisms of Kiffin.

Mark Jackson, who was brought in by Kiffin to be director of football development, also has left the team and will be paid for the remainder of his contract or until he finds another job. Cable also fired Kiffin's brother-in-law, Steve Reaves, who had been an office assistant with the team.

Cable, who was offensive line coach before taking over from Kiffin, had shifted much of the day-to-day responsibility to Cregg as he focused on play-calling and running the entire team. Cable will now have to spend more time with the line, as well as on his other duties.

He said the linemen were particularly upset with Cregg's decision.

"You don't do that," he said. "You never quit. You never quit, I don't care what it is. You don't quit."

Cregg was one of three coaches who had worked with Kiffin before coming to the Raiders, spending a year together on the staff at Colorado State. Tight ends coach Kelly Skipper worked with Kiffin at Fresno State and special teams coach Brian Schneider was on the Colorado State staff with Kiffin.

Cable said he asked all his coaches if anyone else planned to leave and they all said they were staying for the remainder of the season.

Cable's future status is in limbo as well. He has a 2-8 record since taking over Kiffin on an interim basis and has done little to warrant coming back next season.

"I'm just worried about today and the mentality and the mind-set of this football team," he said. "My future will take care of itself. I'm a good coach. I want to be the head coach here. I will just leave it at that."



# 5 Tsunami swimmers to compete in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Five swimmers from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan are heading for Hagatna before the year ends to compete in the Guam International Swim Meet.

The list include Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, and Marystar Welch.

All five Tsunami swimmers recorded "A" (US Standard Time) times, which was one of the criteria set by coach Hiro Kimura for selecting the club's representatives to the Guam meet.

"It (standard) looks strict, but it is in the best interest of the club and its swimmers to send those who can compete in a high level tournament," Kimura said.

He added that only swimmers whose practice attendance is not lower than 75 percent are allowed to compete in the Guam tournament, which will run from Dec. 27 to 28.

Wong, Kensuke, and Staal are coming off record-breaking

performances in the All Schools meet last month and are looking forward to break more records.

The 17-year-old Wong completed the 100m breaststroke race in one minute, 10.62 seconds, a new CNMI National Record. The previous mark was 1:10.91, which Wong himself set on May 30, 2008. His time in last month's meet was also a new mark in the boys' 17 to 18 age group with the Marianas High School student shattering his own record (1:10.91).



DAN KIMBAL  
Kensuke Kimura in his record-breaking swim in the 400m freestyle event during last month's All Schools Meet. Kimura and four other Tsunami Saipan swimmers will go to Guam later this month to compete in a two-day tournament.

In the same Guam meet last year, Wong won five gold medals.

Staal set news records in the 50m and 100m freestyle swims during the All Schools meet and is aiming to break the 24-second barrier in the sprint swim. His record last month was 25.68 seconds.

Kensuke, who posted a new mark in the 400m freestyle (4:54.33) last month, won two gold medals and two silver in Guam last year, and is look-

ing to rule the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststrokes event in this year's meet.

Older brother Shin took home one gold and two bronze medals last year and is hoping to shatter records in the 15-and-under age group.

Welch, the only rose among the thorns, is targeting to improve her silver-medal finish in last year's meet and make new personal best times.

The Tsunami Saipan swimmers will leave on Dec. 26.

Club president Stan Good is extending their appreciation to individuals and companies which supported Tsunami's fundraisers for off-island tournaments.

"In these tough economic times, numerous businesses have been very generous in helping Tsunami swimmers become successful in various tournaments," Good said.

"The success of the team is based on a strong cooperation between the coach, swimmers, sponsors, and parents. It is Tsunami's goal to continue to strengthen this bond and build a stronger team," he added.

## DANIEL

From Page 28

its momentum in the second half due to lack of manpower. Daniel capitalized on Ezekiel's depleted lineup, as Umali, Fernandez, and Ortega took turns in attacking the basket. The trio tallied 35 of Daniel's 46 points in the second half to eke out a seven-point win.

Fernandez led all scorers with 23 points, while Umali and Alex Lauron chipped in 17 apiece. Ortega finished with 12 making 10 in the second half.

Daniel tried to go for back-to-

back wins Saturday, but Jeremiah foiled the former's bid with a 99-92 overtime win.

Amor Casabuena made the game-tying basket in the last 21 seconds of the fourth quarter, and Jeremiah held Daniel to three field goals in the extension period to pull off a victory.

Dante Olivos paced Jeremiah with 24 points, while Casabuena added 12. Pastor Noel Puno top-scored for Daniel with 16 markers.

Despite the win, the dethroned champion Jeremiah will only play in the consolation game against Ezekiel at 6pm. The title match is set for 7:30pm.

Jeremiah ended the regular season with a 5-4 slate, while Ezekiel had only one win in nine games.

Jeremiah won last year's championship after pulling off an upset over Daniel, 105-84.

Meanwhile, organizers of the Genesis Cup would like to thanked the following for supporting the league: Calvary International Mission; Rev. Kok Hiong Pang; Division of Sports and Recreation director Joe Lizama; Coca-Cola, Reliance Construction; Mission Connection; God Victorious Church; Filipino Community Church; and Bill and Elbie Sewell.

## Friday's Game

**Daniel 76**—Fernandez 23, Umali 17, Lauron 17, Ortega 12, Puno 6, Ong 6.

**Ezekiel 69**—Galvan 27, Capalad 23, Chavez 16, Ramos 3.

**Scoring by halves:** 30-36, 76-69

## Saturday's Game

**Jeremiah 99**—D. Olivos 24, Casabuena 21, Manalo 12, Abuel 12, Buenabaja 10, Mercurio 7, Umali 7, E. Olivos 6.

**Daniel 92**—Pastor 18, Umali 15, Culala 14, Talania 13, Ranola 8, Dela Paz 8, Ortega 6, Formales 6, Ong 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 33-49, 85-all, 99-92.

## CHC

From Page 28

the seventh.

Legislature shut out CHC at the top of the seventh and tallied four earned runs at the bottom to send the game to an extra inning.

Extra hitter Ben Higgins led off for CHC and tripled. He later reached home plate on a Renguul single to give their team a 7-6 lead.

Renguul was beaten to third in the next play, Randall Aguon was tagged out to second, and Vince Rabauliman was beaten to first ending the top of the seventh.

Third baseman Ross Manglona led off for Legislature and

flied out to centerfield, while Ngirabuuch shut out second and third batters Chico Ilo and Dennis Cabrera to preserve CHC's victory.

Legislature absorbed their second loss in a row and dropped to a 4-3 slate.

## Beach Boys 7, Jets 3

In the other game in the men's division, the Beach Boys shut out the Joeten Motors Jets in the last four innings to nail a 7-3 victory.

The win put the Beach Boys in a tie for third place with Freedom Air, as both teams have 5-1 records. The Jets dropped from third to fourth with their 5-2 mark.

The Jets scored two runs at

the bottom of the first and only one in the third.

The game was still tied at 2-all after three complete innings when a three-run top of the fourth gave the Beach Boys control of the match. The Beach Boys never looked back from thereon, making two more runs in the last three innings, while their outfielders continued to make life miserable for Jets batters.

## WOMEN'S

In the women's division, league-leading Northern Marianas College improved to a 6-0 record after an easy 12-2 triumph over CHC.

The game ended after only

five innings, as a six-run top of the second allowed NMC to break the game wide open.

CHC scored only in the second and fifth inning dropping to a 1-4 record for a share of the bottom of the team standings with CHC.

The victory put NMC three wins ahead of defending champion DCCA.

Vanessa Mobil was 3-for-3 at-bat for NMC and had two RBIs.

Polly Omechelang pitched for NMC in the first three innings, allowed only two hits, and struck out two. Felisa Brel replaced her in the third inning with the former allowing no hits for a 10-run mercy rule win.

## BUD

From Page 28

Estolas, James Lee, Sivas Awes, Kelvin Fitial, brothers Joe and James Villacrusis, and Mel Manibusan.

In the second game on opening night, Ol'Aces II will square off with JCN Enterprise

at 8:30pm.

Both Ol'Aces I and II will be handled by veteran coach Elias Rangamar, while Marvin Deocares will call the shots for JCN.

Rangamar said that after tonight's games the Bud Cup will resume on Jan. 12. Matches will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Teams interested to join the

league are still welcome and must submit their rosters and the \$500 entrance fee on or before Jan. 9.

Meanwhile, Rangamar said the opening of the Masters league has been moved to next month to give teams more time to prepare.

So far, only two teams each for the 35-and-above and 45-

and-above have shown an interest in competing in the Masters caging.

If organizers will not get enough teams, they are planning to run a 3-on-3 league on weekends instead of the Masters caging.

For more information about the two leagues, contact Rangamar at 664-2502.

## SAURES

From Page 28

Borja suffered a hyperextension injury on his left elbow and a minor separation/dislocation of his shoulder ligament in his rotator cuff.

He said Borja will be out of commission for at least two months but will make a full recovery.

It was Teregeyo's fourth win against a draw and two losses, while Borja dropped to 2-4.

In the Saipan vs. Guam undercards, home boys Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse, and Maitai Charley defeated imports Brian "The Shotgun" Howard, Joe Cabrera, and Leo "The Assassin" Cing, respectively.

Sablan was impressive in his first round rear-naked choke submission win against Howard that improved the Trench Tech fighter's record to 15-4. Howard, of Malesso Home Grown, absorbed his sixth loss in 12 fights.

Jesse (3-0) of Trench Tech

also proved too much for Cabrera (0-2) as he forced the Team D.A.T. fighter to tap out after applying a rear-naked chokehold 4:50 into the first round.

Charley (2-3) was an 11th hour addition to the fight card but came prepared by pummeling Cing (3-5) with a flurry of punches that forced the referee to stop the fight in the 4:34 mark of the opening round.

The night's upset special saw Marianas Elite's Derrick "Pinchi" Rangamar (3-3) defeat Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios (5-3) via a Kimura arm lock submission 4:17 in the first round.

In two preliminary matches, Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (5-0) stopped Team Pwang's Eddie Paulis (0-1) 4:56 in the second round, while older brother Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez (3-0) beat Team Pwang's J.J. "The Mauler" Malite (2-5) in the 2:51 mark of the first round.

The result of the historic first CNMI female MMA fight between Tara "Tarantula" Namauleg and Jen "Salbahe" Sambile will be published tomorrow.



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	2	.920	—
New Jersey	12	11	.522	10
New York	11	13	.458	11 1/2
Philadelphia	10	14	.417	12 1/2
Toronto	10	14	.417	12 1/2

##### Southeast Division

Orlando	19	6	.760	—
Atlanta	15	9	.625	3 1/2
Miami	12	12	.500	6 1/2
Charlotte	7	18	.280	12
Washington	4	18	.182	13 1/2

##### Central Division

Cleveland	20	4	.833	—
Detroit	13	9	.591	6
Chicago	11	12	.478	8 1/2
Milwaukee	11	15	.423	10
Indiana	8	16	.333	12

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	15	8	.652	—
New Orleans	13	7	.650	1/2
Houston	15	9	.625	1/2
Dallas	13	10	.565	2
Memphis	9	15	.375	6 1/2

##### Northwest Division

Denver	17	7	.708	—
Portland	15	10	.600	2 1/2
Utah	15	11	.577	3
Minnesota	4	20	.167	13
Oklahoma City	2	23	.080	15 1/2

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	20	3	.870	—
Phoenix	15	10	.600	6
Golden State	7	18	.280	14
Sacramento	7	18	.280	14
L.A. Clippers	6	17	.261	14

#### Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 83, Charlotte 79	
Indiana 118, Washington 98	
New Jersey 94, Toronto 87	
Boston 100, Utah 91	
Milwaukee 98, Miami 83	
Denver 98, Dallas 88	
Phoenix 111, New York 103	
Sacramento 118, Minnesota 103	
Orlando 109, Golden State 98	

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

##### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	9	5	0	.643	385	319
New England	9	5	0	.643	350	302
Miami	9	5	0	.643	283	269
Buffalo	6	8	0	.429	306	306

##### South

x-Tennessee	12	2	0	.857	344	197
Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	323	274
Houston	7	7	0	.500	319	343
Jacksonville	5	9	0	.357	271	309

##### North

x-Pittsburgh	11	3	0	.786	302	192
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Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	325	213
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	232	305
Cincinnati	2	11	1	.179	174	358

##### West

Denver	8	6	0	.571	326	366
San Diego	6	8	0	.429	346	302
Oakland	3	11	0	.214	205	348
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	254	386

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

##### East

x-N.Y. Giants	11	3	0	.786	374	246
Dallas	9	5	0	.643	332	288
Philadelphia	8	5	1	.607	369	273
Washington	7	7	0	.500	231	266

##### South

Carolina	11	3	0	.786	353	264
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	313	251
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	336	281
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	390	353

##### North

Minnesota	9	5	0	.643	342	290
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	331	302
Green Bay	5	9	0	.357	371	339
Detroit	0	14	0	.000	240	444

##### West

x-Arizona	8	6	0	.571	386	358
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	295	341
Seattle	3	11	0	.214	260	355
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	189	417

##### x-clinched division

#### Yesterday's Game

Philadelphia 30, Cleveland 10

By The Associated Press

### LOCAL SCORES

#### BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

##### Men's Division

DCCA	7	0
CPA	6	0
Freedom Air	5	1
Beach Boys	5	1
Joeten Motors	5	2
No Zone	5	2
Legislature	4	3
DLNR	4	3
POI	3	2
P & S	3	3
Docomo	3	4
Law & Order	3	4
Customs	2	4
PSS	2	4
CHC	2	4
CUC	2	5
DEQ/CRM	2	5
PIC	1	4
Hopwood	0	6
Mayors	0	7

##### Women's Division

NMC	6	0
DCCA	3	2
Finance	2	3
CHC	1	4
CUC	1	4



# 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League

PHOTOS by  
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Southern High School celebrate their title win in the boys junior varsity division of the 2008-2009 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium Friday.



Nikita Hofschneider dribbles against a Southern player.



Mt. Carmel's Bela Baka pulls up for a jumper during their playoff game against Southern.



Kagman High School's Ayuyus pose for a group photo before their title game against the Rays.



The Lady Rays and Ayuyus pose with their supporters after the championship game.

Min Seung Kim goes for a fallaway jumper against Southern defenders during their semifinals game.



Southern's Geza Baka is forced to pass the ball as he is guarded by two MHS defenders.



Kagman and Southern Rays players battle for the loose ball.

Kagman's Suvali Talalemotu, left, goes for a layup against MHS' Eddie Manalili.



MHS' Nino Feria, left, and Kagman's Juan Maratita fight for the ball during their semifinals match.





## 5 Tsunami swimmers to compete in Guam

Five swimmers from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan are heading for Hagatna before the year ends to compete in the Guam International Swim Meet.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Celtics earn 15th straight win, beat Jazz

Rajon Rondo scored 12 of his career-high 25 points in the final 5:20, and Kevin Garnett had 19 points and 10 rebounds on Monday to lead the Boston Celtics to their 15th consecutive victory, 100-91 over the Utah Jazz.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Saures, Teregeyo dominate rivals

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Second of a three-part series

Veteran MMA fighters "Kill" Bill Saures and Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo dominated their opponents in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation held last Friday night at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Going up against Team Zalaka's Antonio "Xcalibur" Nekaifes and his 270-lb.

reframe, Saures used his speed and savvy to win the match in the third round, while Teregeyo needed just a fraction of that to take care of business against Predator Combat's John "The Jackhammer" Borja.

The Saures-Nekaifes match was true to its "The Big Brawl" billing as the two combatants engaged each other in a stand-up and grappling test of wills in their three-round, no-hold barred matchup.

The first round saw both fighters lock and load their punches at the center of the octagon, while the second saw mostly a ground fight with Saures making full use of his grappling skills

and Nekaifes his bulk to try and take the upperhand.

Both fighters were slow to get up from the mat after the second round and the start of the third round had both of them measuring each other up with jabs.

Saures and Nekaifes eventually resumed their battle of attrition on the ground with the former eventually mounting the latter and flaying away with punches while taunting the other to give up and tap out.

With blood oozing from Nekaifes' nose resulting from Saures' relentless attack, celebrity referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho stepped in and stopped the fight at the 1:40 mark of the third round.

The win raised the Team Extreme fighter's record to seven wins against four losses, while Nekaifes fell to 0-2.

Meanwhile, introductions were barely finished when Teregeyo beat Borja via arm bar submission a mere 29 seconds in the first round of their bout.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez later said that

See SAURES on Page 26

"Kill" Bill Saures has Antonio "Xcalibur" Nekaifes in a headlock during "The Big Brawl" match in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation last Friday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

MARK RABAGO



# Daniel, Isaiah to duel for Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Daniel split its last two games to earn a return trip to the finals of the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup.

Isaiah will be challenging Daniel in the one-game title showdown this Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada

Gymnasium. Both teams finished the three-round robin regular season with a 6-3 record.

Daniel secured the last finals berth after a 76-69 win over Ezekiel Friday. Sam Fernandez, Mike Umali, and Joel Ortega joined forces in lifting Daniel to a come-from-behind win.

Ezekiel led Daniel at halftime, 36-30, behind the combined 28 points of White Capalad and Ferdinand Galvan. Ezekiel took a six-point halftime

advantage despite playing with only five players.

But Ezekiel failed to sustain  
See DANIEL on Page 26

Isaiah's Jeremy Tamayo goes up for a reverse layup during their third round match against Jeremiah in the Genesis Cup at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai. Isaiah will duel the Genesis Cup crown against Daniel this Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

# CHC edges Legislature in extra inning

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Commonwealth Health Center needed an extra inning to thwart Legislature, 7-6, in the men's division game in the 2008 Inter Govern-

Northern Marianas College pitcher Felisa Brel picks up a grounder during their game against CHC in the women's division of the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League Friday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ment/Business Softball League Friday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Second baseman Dennis Renguul hit a one-run single at the top of the eighth inning, while pitcher Al Ngiraibuuch had two strikeouts at the bottom to give CHC its second win in six games.

The match ended at 6-all after seven complete innings, following Legislature's rally at the bottom of

See CHC on Page 26



# Bud Cup caging opens tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The 2008-2009 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Island-wide Basketball League will kick off tonight with a double-header at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Opening the hostilities in the annual caging, that will feature some of the best players on the island, are Docomo Pacific Hoopaholics and Ol' Aces I. The first game of the night will be played at 7pm.

The Docomo Pacific-sponsored Hoopaholics are composed of players from last year's champion Rock Steady and will be coached by CNMI Men's Nationals mentor Rufino Aguon.

Rock Steady took the 2007 Bud Cup championship after eclipsing the Saipan Stevedore Suns in the finals, 92-78.

The 2007 champion was composed of scoring champion Fred Pelisamen, Mark Wallace, Jun

See BUD on Page 26

